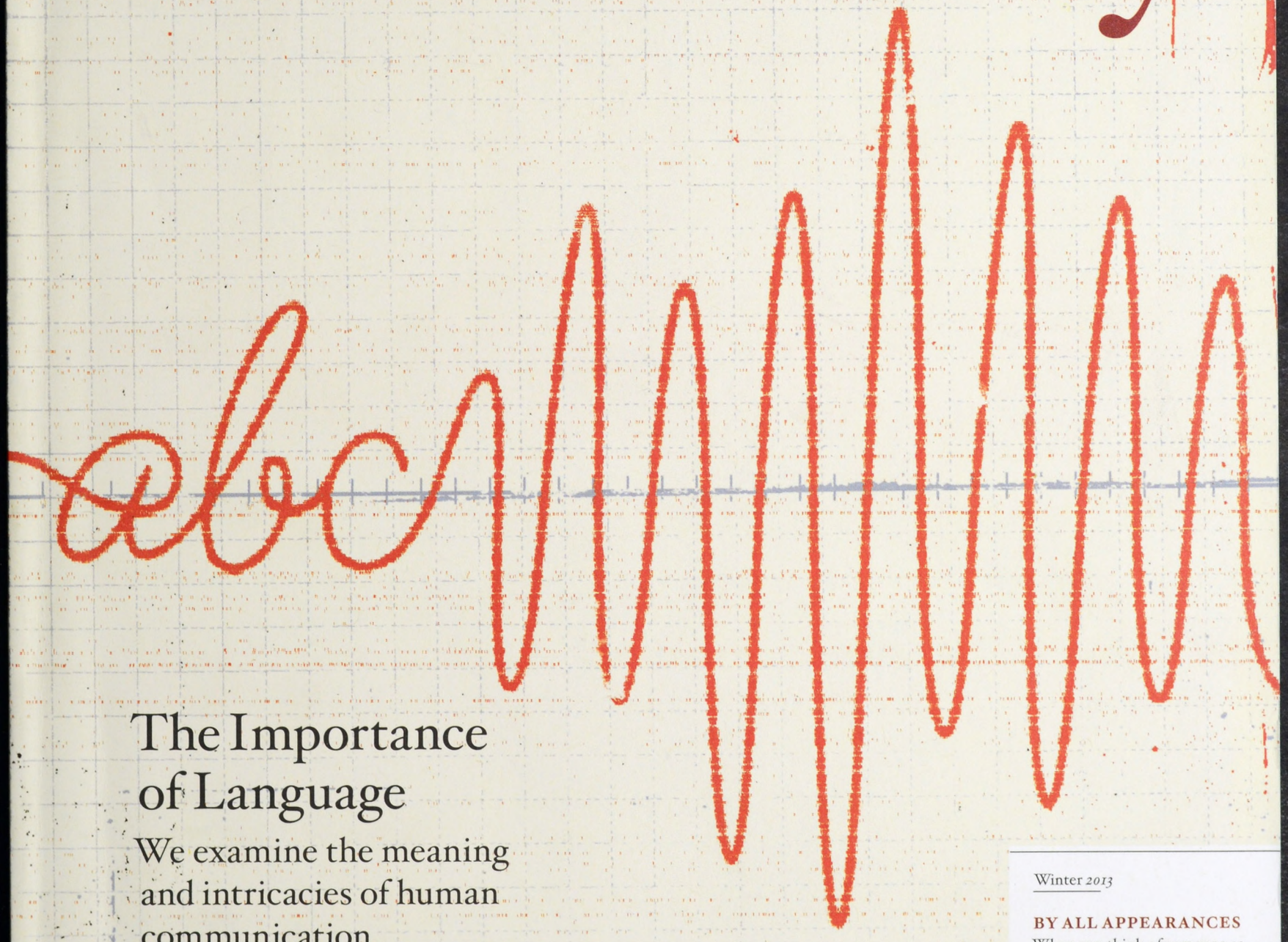
Middlebury MAGAZINE



The Importance of Language

We examine the meaning and intricacies of human communication.

Winter *2013*

BY ALL APPEARANCES
When you think of someone as "that racist" then you're missing the point. *p. 44*

CULTURE CLUB
Htar Htar Yu '08 knows what it's like to be a refugee. *p. 54*

MO'S NOBEL
Discovering Mo Yan—years before his Nobel. *p. 96*

SPARK *something*

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By Rex Lee Jim, MA English '01

The Mother Tongue

Language is culture. The Navajo language is Navajo culture. When one changes, so does the other. ¶ Many ceremonies and cultural activities peculiar to and associated with the language that my grandparents spoke are now gone. ¶ I will never experience the Navajo associated with that worldview. It is gone forever. But language is alive. When it diminishes in one area, it expands in another. In Navajo, we adopt new words to articulate contemporary concepts and objects like neuro-immunology and computers. We strive to maintain the integrity of tradition while accommodating an ever-changing world.

Although cultures may evolve and languages may change with the times, certain linguistic and cultural associations function as inalienable, immutable forces that keep us Navajos. One such force is the notion of *k'e*—relationship building that is linguistically and culturally Navajo. Within our clanship system, a 96-year-old grandmother may call me "Daddy." On Navajo, when I talk about all my children, everyone understands. Off Navajo, I am often asked how many children I have and it is demanded of me to explain how one of my children can be 46 years older than me. I used to try, but now I don't even bother. My reality in Navajo needs no explanation in English to a non-Navajo worldview.

This peculiar relationship allows our elders to be childlike again. It allows them to be goofy without being ridiculed. They use this opportunity to ask of me as their father things that I cannot provide them. Through these interactions, they teach me how to be a caring and loving father to my own children, passing on lifelong lessons of parenting. At the same time, they would tease my children as brothers and sisters, establishing lasting and valuable relationships. These elders and my children bond together for life, respecting and loving one another as siblings.

In Navajo, we call our biological nieces "mothers." From birth they are our mothers; our kinship demands that we respect them as matriarchs. Our interactions with them must help them become mothers and leaders of the family. Knowing this, I do my part, misbehaving and allowing them to chastise me for being foolish. In so doing, we begin to train them to become matriarchs.

They learn quickly. On her first day at school as a kindergartener, my youngest niece was running around when her teacher asked her to stop. When she refused, her teacher said, "I am going to tell your uncle, the school board president."

"What uncle?" she responded.

"Rex."

"He's not my uncle; he's my son. I tell him what to do!"

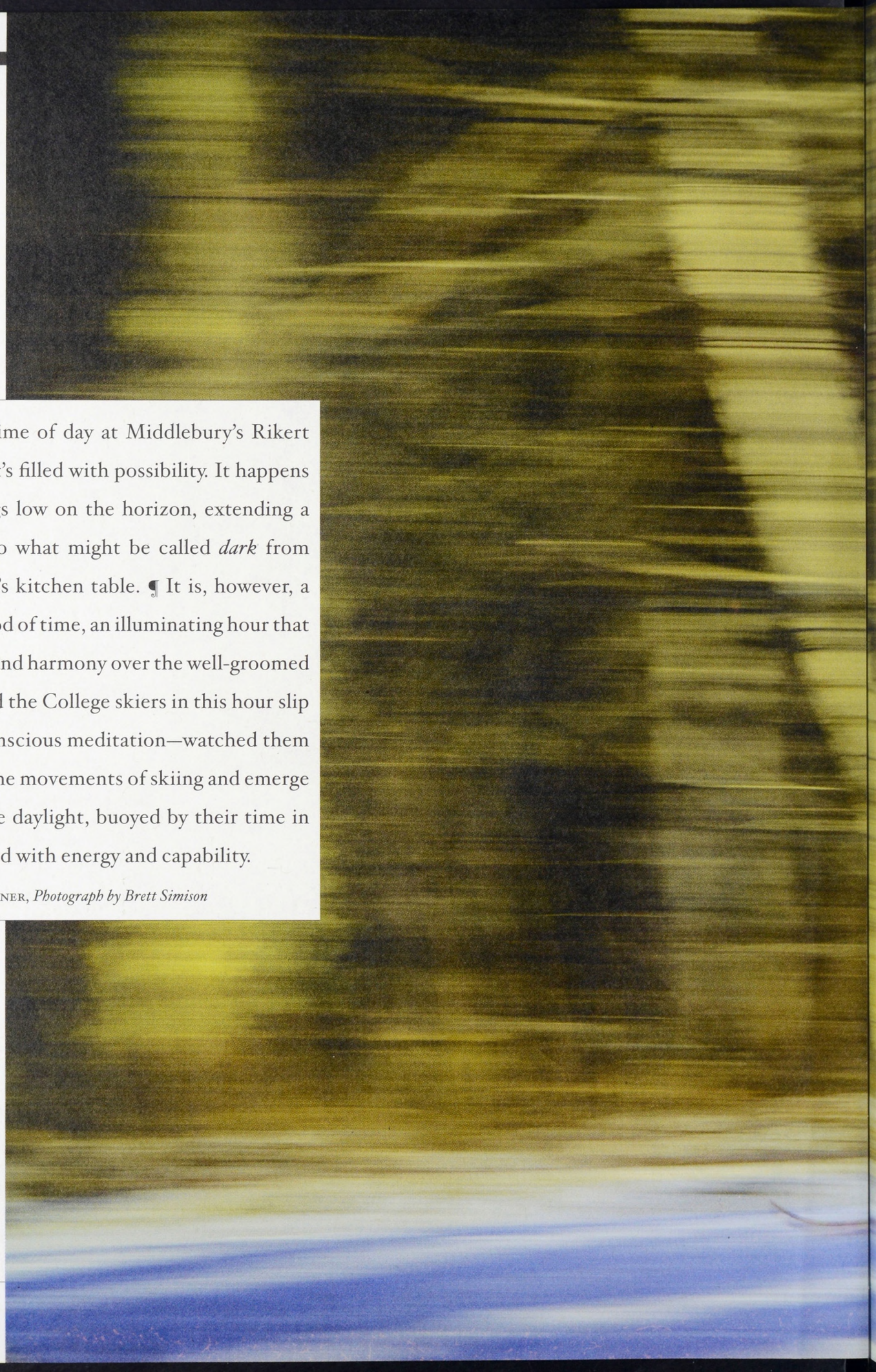
The Navajo teacher realized what was going on. "Well, I will tell your 'mother' Janice (the 'aunt') at the high school." My niece settled down right away.

The Navajo language allows us to develop intimate and unique relationships, which is the foundation of strong, healthy communities. When we no longer speak the language, what makes us distinct and unique will be gone. We will be speakers of English with brown skins. The Navajo community will no longer be.

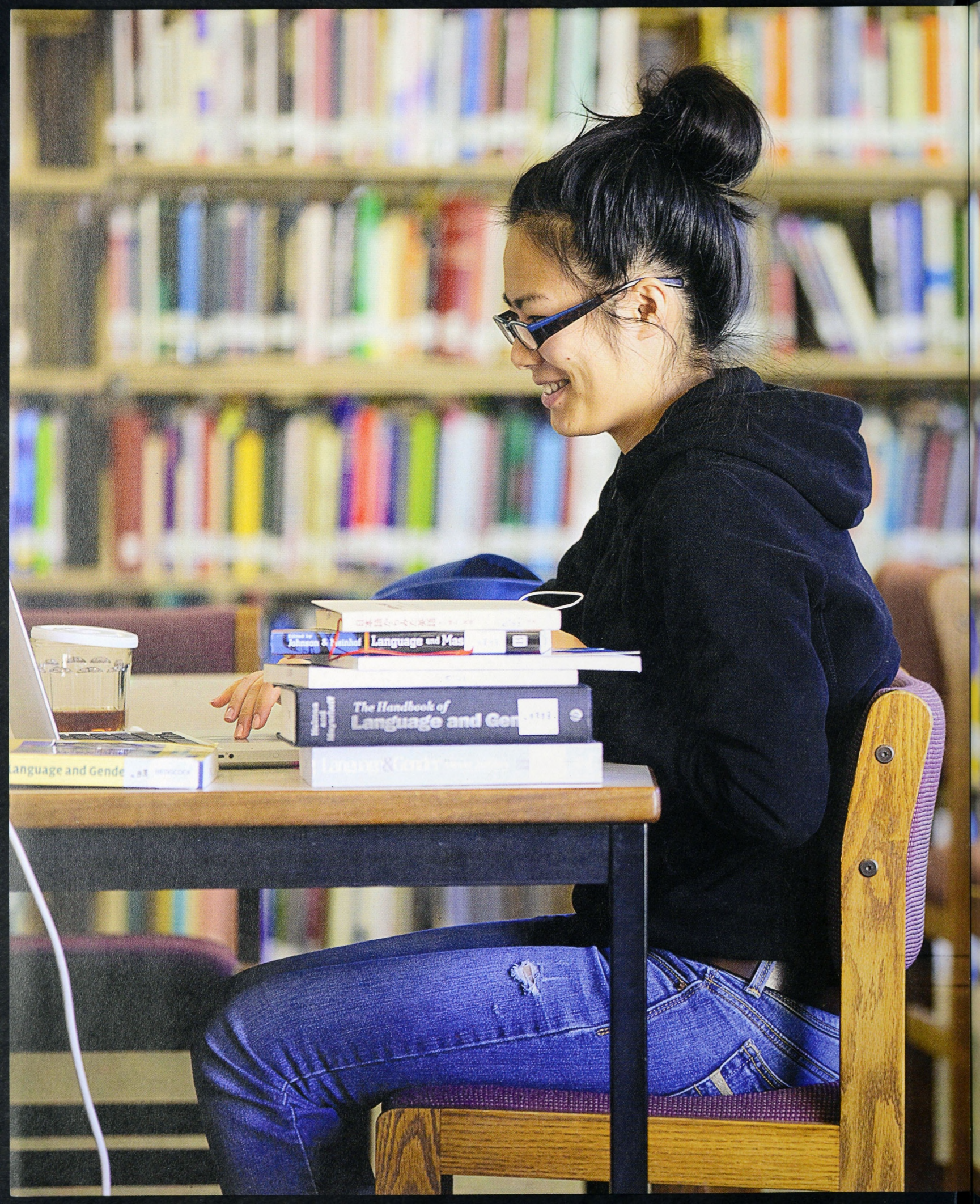
COVER AND ABOVE ILLUSTRATION BY HEADS OF STATE

There's a certain time of day at Middlebury's Rikert Nordic Center that's filled with possibility. It happens when the sun hangs low on the horizon, extending a winter evening into what might be called *dark* from the vantage of one's kitchen table. ¶ It is, however, a widely unseen period of time, an illuminating hour that rolls in movement and harmony over the well-groomed trail. ¶ I've watched the College skiers in this hour slip into a type of unconscious meditation—watched them draw into the routine movements of skiing and emerge from the last of the daylight, buoyed by their time in low winter sun, filled with energy and capability.

By Coach Andrew Gardner, *Photograph by Brett Simison*



The Carroll and Jane Rikert Nordic Center at Bread Loaf Mountain features 50 kilometers of meticulously maintained Nordic trails bordered by national forest. This season marks the first with its newly installed snow-making system.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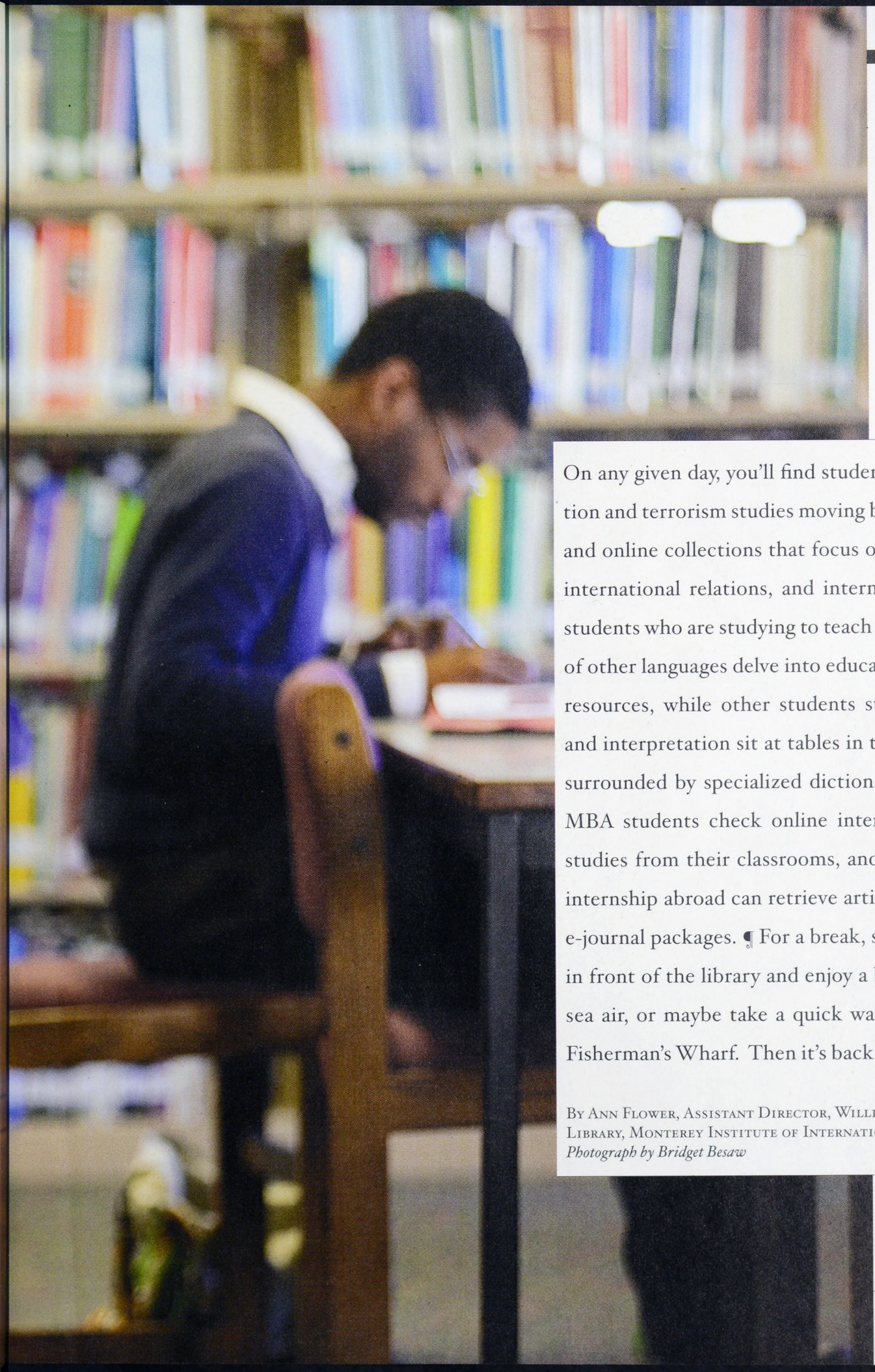

SCENE

Located at the center of campus, the William Tell Coleman Library houses a print and digital collection that supports teaching and research at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.

On any given day, you'll find students of nonproliferation and terrorism studies moving between the shelves and online collections that focus on national security, international relations, and international law. ¶ And students who are studying to teach English to speakers of other languages delve into education and linguistics resources, while other students studying translation and interpretation sit at tables in the reference room, surrounded by specialized dictionaries. International MBA students check online international-consumer studies from their classrooms, and students doing an internship abroad can retrieve articles from our many e-journal packages. ¶ For a break, students often relax in front of the library and enjoy a bit of sun and fresh sea air, or maybe take a quick walk down the hill to Fisherman's Wharf. Then it's back to work.

By Ann Flower, Assistant Director, William Tell Coleman Library, Monterey Institute of International Studies
Photograph by Bridget Besaw

His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited Middlebury in early October, giving talks to crowds in Nelson Arena on both Friday and Saturday of his stay.

Two Vermont Tibetans welcomed the Dalai Lama's motorcade when he arrived. His Holiness stepped over to them, and the interaction was so very special. The Dalai Lama treated everyone he met with kindness, attention, and good humor—yet there was something deep, numinous, loving, reverent, and holy happening in that particular moment that I will always remember. ¶ So while his visit, on the one hand, was a whirlwind of events as His Holiness and his entourage moved from venue to venue, there were also such incredibly focused, still, and memorable moments like this. And yet he is also quite playful: sneaking up behind me on the stage and completely startling me while entertaining his happy audience. ¶ As an outsider, who had this brief but close experience with a charismatic holy man and his disciples, seeing the crowds who want to be near and touch him . . . well, this gave me experiential insight into the stories I grew up with in my own tradition.

By Chaplain Laurie Macaulay Jordan '79, *Photograph by Brett Simison*

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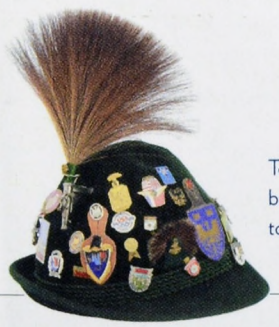

To see who this hat belongs to, turn to page 68.

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This issue, we tackle a topic germane to every human: language. Our selections:

Philosophy professor John Spackman on the meaning of language
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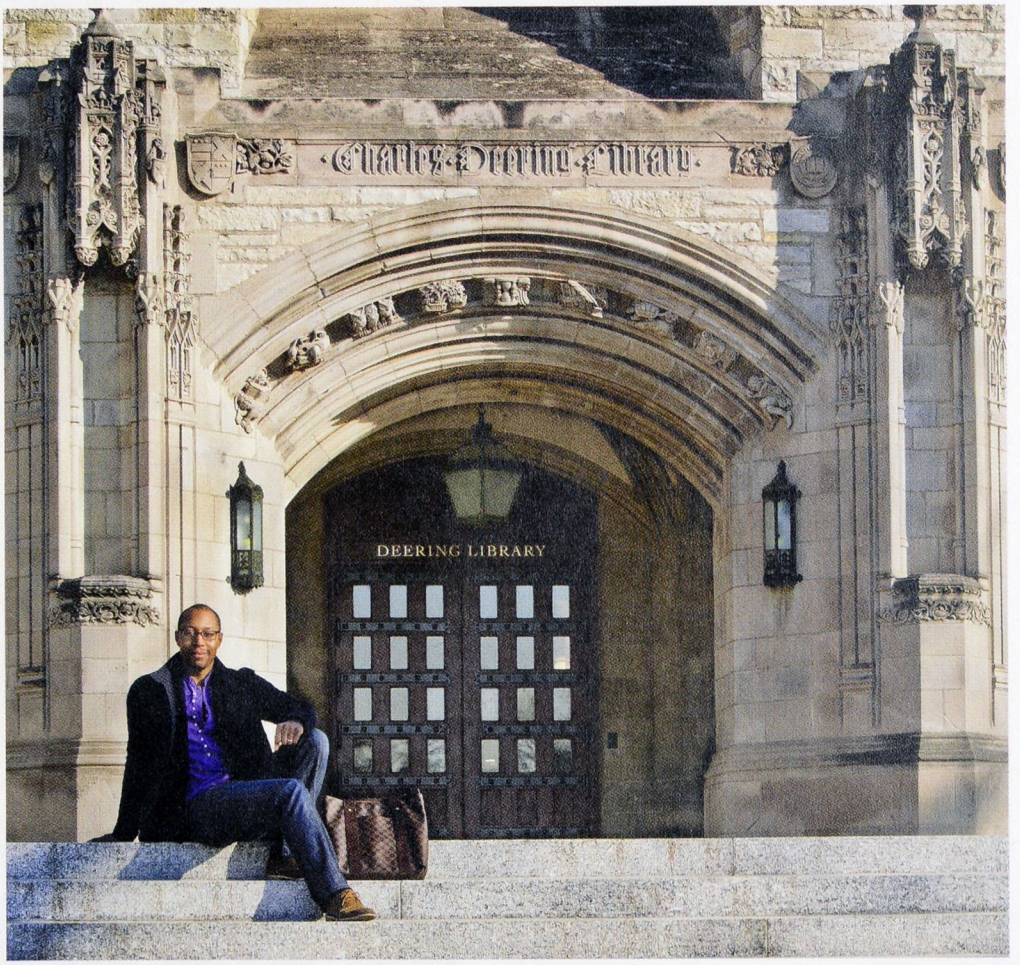
Language Schools VP Michael Geisler on the country's need for a strategic language reserve
Monterey dean Renee Jourdenais on the global import of understanding English



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Dwayne Nash '99 was once a part of the legal institution he now seeks to reform.
By Sierra Crane-Murdoch '09

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A writer comes to terms with the now-controversial concept. By Meghan Laslocky '89

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TODD BALFOUR (ABOVE) AND RON SEYMOUR (ABOVE RIGHT).

Upcoming Events

Reunion June 7–9, 2013

Catch up with your Middlebury classmates and friends over a fun and festive weekend. Bring your family or a friend!

Alumni College

August 29–September 1, 2013

Plan an end-of-summer getaway to the beautiful Bread Loaf campus and explore fascinating subjects with some of Middlebury's best teachers. (Parents are welcome, too!)

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September 7–8, 2013

In honor of Gordon C. Perine '49

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Remembering Tad

Tad Merrick died.

For many years, Tad took photographs for this magazine. Just about any individual item that you saw in these pages—a book, something culled from the archives, a ceramic green chicken—was captured on film (and eventually digitally) by Tad in his second-floor studio above what is now a "Vermont products" shop on Main Street.

Tad was a tall, oft-goateed fellow with gigantic feet and a goofy sense of humor. He liked to talk; encounters on the street could eventually lead to extended conversations back in his studio or at Otter Creek Bakery, where he was a regular customer, because one can only stand on a street corner gabbing away for so long. But it was well worth doing so, because Tad had a lot of interesting things to talk about.

At various stages of his life, he worked on a fishing boat, managed an urban farm center in San Francisco, and taught emotionally disturbed youths; he played the bass guitar and loved the outdoors. But photography was his true passion and, ultimately, his vocation.

A visit to his studio was like stepping into a story, a fairy tale, with Tad playing the role of the bumbling, gentle giant. It was a mess in there, but Tad knew exactly where everything was. And he'd no sooner set up lighting than he'd trip over the light stands. But when it was time to shoot, it was as if a switch had been flipped. He became the consummate pro. His subjects were expertly lit and framed, every angle explored.

In addition to his work for the magazine, Tad was the photographer of record for just about every installation mounted in the College's Museum of Art; he also took individual photographs of museum acquisitions, which were used in catalogues, brochures, as publicity stills, and for archival records.

Of course, Tad was recognized as a fine artist himself, and it's fitting that a few of his images, including the one on this page, have been acquired by the museum. The above photo—*Untitled*, 1982, New York City—is quintessential Tad. It reveals his sense of humor, his keen eye, his artistic influences that include the film noir of Ingmar Bergman and the social landscape of Lee Friedlander. I would have loved to have been there when he saw this sign, to see his face light up, to hear his laugh, to watch him work.

Not too long ago, I found myself on Main Street, pausing in front of a recessed doorway behind which stands a creaky set of stairs leading to a second-floor space, now empty. The sign for "Tad Merrick Photography" was gone, and so is he. But his memory and his work live on.—*MJ*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TAD MERRICK

Middlebury
MAGAZINE

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Winter 2013
Volume 87, Number 1

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The views presented are not necessarily those of the editors or the official policies of the College.

Middlebury College of Middlebury, Vermont, publishes *Middlebury Magazine* (ISSN 0745-2454) four times a year: winter, spring, summer, and fall. © 2013 Middlebury College Publications. *Middlebury Magazine* is printed at The Lane Press in South Burlington, Vermont. Nonprofit standard mail postage paid at Middlebury, Vermont, and at additional mailing offices (USPS 964-820). Printed in U.S.A.

Middlebury Magazine is printed on a combination of 50% post-consumer fiber (cover) and 100% post-consumer (text) paper.

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Talk

FEATURED CONTRIBUTORS

The Heads of State (Cover; Language, in Depth) are actually the wacky duo Jason Kernevich and Dustin Summers, who call the gritty streets of Philadelphia home. Their agency made its bones in the music industry, designing posters and other material for the likes of REM, The National, Wilco, and Iron & Wine. Now, though, their work has appeared on book jackets, in magazines, and as corporate identity from folks as varied as *The New Yorker* and Nickelodeon. Check 'em out at theheadsofstate.com.

Jessica Hische ("Whither Courtly Love") is a world-class illustrator and type designer who has counted writer Dave Eggers, the *New York Times*, American Express, and the film director Wes Anderson among her clients. A self-professed "oversharer," Jessica gives her thoughts, presents her work, and offers up some fun stuff for sale at her wonderful website, jessicahische.is. So hustle off and learn more about her. She's a delight.

Rex Lee Jim, MA English '01 (Cover Essay) is a poet, a teacher, an advocate for the rights of indigenous people, and the vice president of the Navajo Nation. Language has always been of particular interest to Rex—something he talks about at length at go.middlebury.edu/rexleejim. We feel fortunate to include his thoughts on the fascinating subject of language and cultural fluency in our pages.

Meghan Laslocky '89 ("Whither Courtly Love") is a journalist and the author of *The Little Book of Heartbreak: Love Gone Wrong Through the Ages*. Our own Julia Alvarez '71 calls Meghan's debut book "a fun, engaging, and comprehensive romp through heartache and heartbreak." Meghan grew up in Addison County, studied English literature at the College, attended grad school at Berkeley, and now plies her trade in the Bay Area. Her website is meghanlaslocky.com.

Sierra Crane-Murdoch '09 ("By All Appearances") is a dogged reporter and dynamite writer, who has earned prestigious scholarships, residencies, and fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Banff Program in Literary Journalism, and the Middlebury Fellowships in Environmental Journalism program. She recently received a gold medal for feature writing for her profile of Howard Fauntroy '89 ("In the Name of the Father") in the winter 2011 issue. Her website is sierramurdoch.com.

Ron Seymour ("By All Appearances") is a photographer based in Chicago, where he learned the art of the craft at the knee of his father, the portraitist Maurice Seymour. Ron opened his own studio in 1967 and has specialized in both corporate work and photojournalism. His work can be viewed at ronseymour.com.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Plain Sense of Things

A scholar of poetry discovers genius in the unlikeliest of places.

By Brett Millier, *Illustrations by Hadley Hooper*

I was working in my office early in the fall semester of 2010, when I heard a loud Vermont voice out in the hall asking for "the head a'the English D'pahtment." Moments later, a type seldom seen in the halls of academe filled my doorway. Standing there, like something out of a fairy tale, was a large, roughly dressed man with shoulder-length hair and an enormous beard; a battered green folder of papers was tucked under his arm.

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Platitudes

So many similarities; I am the age of my life
you were when you took yours, and we both have seen
the depths to which life can go, great
goddess of stalactites, of blackened wombs
that exude unpleasantries like the whore who
peels back her tawdry clothes, sees the spirit
hurl itself straight to the wall of self-consciousness
and boomerang off again. Milds, bees, hooks;
black incandescence, the children in their cots
(mine are pets), and the men especially
the scientist, the cold cruel brute,
the loving one who succumbs to another love,
the feeble beliefs that the heart does not stop
when I know full well mine did,
all this, dear Sylvia, is our sisterhood,
the common engravings on our calling cards.
I can see us both waiting for that first solemn stain
the month after our lovers had left us, red
of our rages spilling over even there
where we least want it. It is a fact
indisputable now this reddest, this loss.
The ancestral homes are crumbling; there is no further need
for the unguents and jellies we protect ourselves by,
you and I. But I own an elixir you could not wait around for
that no man has a patent on; elemental, pure
as the tongue could desire, and clean as the saltmines
it comes from, sure electrolyte, even keel
that will steer me thorough the mazes of my days
and I can abandon the abandon that swallowed you
with a flirty burp. I have conquered my quirk
not completely, perhaps, but enough to forewarn
that I will live to outlive you and our write you
taking this pill with a glass of still water.

A ROAD MAP

I have moved south, replacing maple trees and elm trees with live oaks and palms. Spanish moss softens the tree limbs here; dusky gray filaments are now my snow, and the strength of a hill sunset has been supplanted by the intensity of a marsh sunrise.

For many years I maintained my Middlebury connection. I went to Bread Loaf and the Writers' Conference. I gave what I could financially to the Annual Fund. I attended reunion and Alumni College. I interviewed prospective students. I encouraged my high school students to apply. I read the magazine. I championed Middlebury at every opportunity.

And then Bicentennial Hall opened. I walked in and, suddenly, my college no longer felt like mine. I was incredibly saddened, awestruck by the changes that spread across campus, gobbling up buildings that I knew and replacing them with things new and unfamiliar. Somehow I felt abandoned. The reaction was completely emotional and completely nonintellectual. I was, after all, an English major.

Rather than embracing the changes, I stopped cheering. I stopped attending reunions. I stopped giving money. This summer, when in Vermont, I went to a few stores downtown and did not even drive up to the campus. I couldn't.

But yesterday, *Middlebury Magazine* arrived. And there was Brett Millier's piece on Kim Lane '76. I read it. I cried. I looked in my 1976 *Kaleidoscope* and found Kim's senior photo. There she was, standing in a snowy field, wearing the ubiquitous turtleneck and sweater under a boiled wool jacket. Flakes dusted her arm, her shoulder, her hair. A wayward lock covered one eye, and she was smiling directly at the camera. At that moment, she did not know what she would be. I did not know what I would be. The only certainty was that things would change.

And then I realized that she knew, and I knew, that some of us are migrants (as she later wrote). When we return, memories are "muddled" and the markers have changed. But that does not negate the value of the experience, nor does it deny the importance of transformation. Without memory and dream, we are doomed.

The magazine may well be my road map back to Middlebury. I know I would be lost without it. I know I would be lost without my college—its memories and its dreams.

I cannot give much, but I can give this. For Kim, and for me—thank you.

—Charlotte Koplinka Landon '76, MA English '81, *Savannah, Georgia*

A TRAGIC AND MOVING TALE

I was deeply moved by the story on the tragic life and poetry of Kim Lane '76—"The Plain Sense of Things," written by Brett Millier and illustrated by Hadley Hooper—in your fall issue. I appreciated it more than I can convey in this letter, inasmuch as the article can touch one in so many ways: the anguished perfection of her poetry, one's sense of humanity, and, in the true sense of the word, the tragedy of her death—untimely, timely, or a blessed release, depending

Los estudiantes del campus de Logroño disfrutan de una vida nocturna que se desarrolla alrededor del antiguo mercado, donde la gente se reúne con sus amigos para pasar la tarde y la noche en sus restaurantes de tapas favoritos.

perhaps on the sensibilities we bring to her life experience.

The most rewarding years of my working life were those I spent as a high school English teacher, first in a coeducational boarding school in Colorado, and next as head of the English department in Hanover High School in Hanover, New Hampshire. Both while I was teaching and in life afterwards, I have known students who had undergone or were undergoing life experiences almost as deep and challenging as those experienced by Kim, and who were trying to express these in prose or poetry. But Kim's work is in a class almost by itself, and I am left wanting more.

Wisdom comes through suffering, and to paraphrase William Faulkner, great literature is born of the struggles of the human heart in conflict with itself. Kim's poetry stands as brilliant and evocative evidence of that struggle, leaving me to ask, where can her poetry go now? Perhaps *Poetry Magazine*? Her voice needs to be heard; her poetry and her story deserve a broad audience.

—Lyman Allen '53, *Pagosa Springs, Colorado*

NOT SO UNLIKELY?

Kudos to you for producing an alumni magazine I enjoy reading. I'm not sure exactly what I expected when I read the subtitle to Brett Millier's story ("The Plain Sense of Things") in the fall 2012 issue: "A scholar of poetry discovers genius in the unlikeliest of places." A suitcase from a rummage sale? A trip to an impoverished, uneducated section of (insert state or country)?

After reading about poems, which were hand delivered to Professor Millier's office, written and collected by a Middlebury graduate who had focused on writing since high school, I began to wonder about the words "discovers" and "unlikeliest." Is a "real poet" more likely to be an academic? Someone without mental illness? A published writer? Who discovered whom in this case?

The subtitle promises drama in all the wrong places; I wish you had published more of Kim Lane's actual work. From the examples given, her poetry is able to stand on its own and deserves the full spotlight.

—Patricia Bauman Norton '89, *Thetford Center, Vermont*

THOUGHTS ON REDESIGN AND KIM LANE '76

I'm probably in the minority in not being particularly impressed with the new format of the magazine. I find the emphasis on a complex format and presentation, often convoluted and confusing, to be detrimental to content. Further, the font is really tiny (I'm old after all), and the magazine is now so unwieldy that it has to be squeezed into my mailbox.

But I do want to say that the piece titled "The Plain Sense of Things" by Brett Millier is possibly the best piece I have seen in the more than 50 years I have been reading the magazine. The writing is moving but not maudlin. The poet's life becomes positive and meaningful, rescued somehow from melancholy and sadness. The poetry, not enough of it, of course, is simply enchanting.

I hope you can persuade Professor Millier to continue to develop the poetry and story of Kim.

—Edward Hickcox '53, *Victoria, British Columbia*

A JOB WELL DONE

I just received my copy of *Middlebury Magazine* and it looks fantastic. Its clean, contemporary design is totally refreshing. The graphics and illustrations are terrific. The paper choice and size and format are modern and approachable. What a wonderful makeover! And while I have not had the chance to finish reading the entire issue, I was totally enthralled with "The Plain Sense of Things" and plan to share it with others.

Congratulations to you all.

—Liz Brooking '81, *San Francisco, California*

CHANGE HAPPENS

The polarized image of America as a country divided between red and blue states is overdrawn; for the most part, it only exists in the collective imagination of Americans ("Politics in America: Myth or Reality," fall 2012). Every day, most Americans realize that government consists of an active, if not overactive, bunch of civil servants and representatives who will affect our nation consistently in one way or another. Change happens.

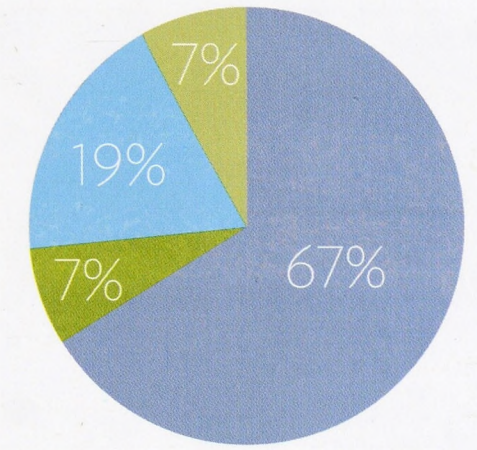
—Brendan Ryan, *Commenting on middmag.com*

A NEW YEAR'S WISH

I always enjoy *Middlebury Magazine* and the fall 2012 edition was no exception. The cover essay written by Frank Sesno '77, "Just the Facts," showed that even the facts these days are not black and white. And even if someone tries to correct an error, social-networking sites and the permanency of the Internet make this difficult to do. What was most important to me about this specific essay—sadly, most of the same challenges it addresses exist north of the border except that we have limits on political donations—

Mail Bag Brett Millier's feature story on the tragic yet brilliant life of Kim Lane '76 struck the strongest emotional chord among readers of our fall issue. And you all continue to offer impassioned feelings about our summer redesign. The mail bag again is filled to capacity, and nothing could make us more happy. Keep the letters, tweets, comments, and blog posts coming!

TALK ENTRY PLATFORMS



2
LETTERS WE RECEIVED FROM CANADA

5
OTHER MAGAZINES REFERENCED IN THIS ISSUE'S TALK DEPARTMENT

1
NUMBER OF LETTERS REFERENCING THE MOVIE *LINCOLN*

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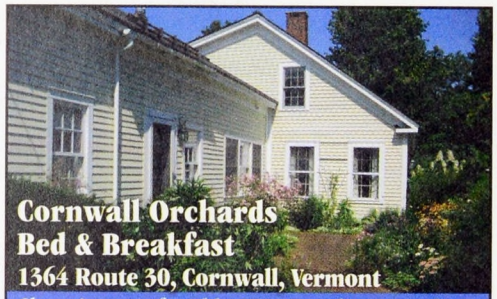
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was the comment that we must do better.

Before attending Middlebury College, and even while there, I didn't understand truly what a liberal arts college was. I didn't realize until the Bush era that the word *liberal* could be a negative. Having just watched Steven Spielberg's movie *Lincoln*, which dealt with such mighty and meaty issues as democracy and the republic, it is discouraging to see discourse not just uncivilized (some of the 1865 exchanges did get quite discourteous), but not existent at all.

My New Year's wish is for *Middlebury Magazine* to show the world how civil debate can expand our thinking in one other area that puzzles me. While the 13th Amendment—which is what the movie *Lincoln* is about—is something I would hope no one would question today, the 2nd Amendment (the right to bear arms) is one that needs to be understood in today's context. How does one reconcile a person's right to travel free of fear of being shot in a public place like a church or school with someone else's right to carry a weapon, concealed or not, in such areas?

Of course, discussion of taking arms against a sea of troubles dates much earlier and the implication is that action is better.

—Barb Amsden '80, *Toronto, Ontario*

NOPE, NOT A RURAL LEGEND

An old friend said a prank I played senior year showed up recently in a cartoon in the *Middlebury Magazine* ("Rural Legend?"). I thought I read each issue quite carefully, but obviously this cartoon slipped right past me.

Senior year, we decided we really needed to steal the candy machine and place it in Lisa Cagliuso's room because she had a sweet tooth and often worked late. (What more rationale does one need for a prank???) Anyway, we tried to get the hockey guys on the hall to move it, but they gave up and said it was too heavy. I kept looking at the machine and the rug next to it...and the solution just came to me. So four girls rocked the machine onto the rug and we dragged it into Lisa's room and there it stayed for at least a week. We all knew where it was—so everyone just wandered into her room when they wanted something.

I didn't think anyone knew this story except perhaps Janice Gadaire, who was in on the caper. At any rate, if this is indeed the prank that Mark Stamaty immortalized sometime recently in a cartoon, could you please possibly send a copy to me? My teen daughters would be impressed that their nerdly mom thought up such a prank, and I still miss Lisa so much. I'm sure you folks know she died of cancer just a few years after graduating from Midd.

So sorry I missed this on the first round. The magazine just keeps getting better and better!

—Polly Holyoke '81, *Plano, Texas*

THUMBS UP AND THANK YOU

I like the new format and content of the redesigned magazine immensely. The Kim Lane '76 story and the poems were a revelation. I'm still working my way through the rest.

And thanks for including my letter about Hank Prickitt and Paul Cubeta ("A Loss of Giants") with such minimal (and judicious) editing. I felt I owed it to them both, for the good they had done for me and for others.

Congratulations on the issue. Keep it up.

—Robert W. Parker '53, *Springfield, Ohio*

THIRST QUENCHED

The long drought is over! I must confess to years of throwing my *Middlebury Magazine* straight in the recycle bin. I didn't catch on to the new look with the last issue, but I'm devouring the fall 2012 issue page by page. Thank you for the long-awaited change.

—Erin Harrington '99, *Kodiak, Alaska*

GOOD DIGS

Digging the new format, @MiddleburyMag. Keep up the good work.

—@KrisJohnson_NI, *Commenting on Twitter*

ABOUT THAT TYPE

I second the comments of Brian Kheel '63 ("Not My Type, Part II," fall 2012) as published on page 16 in the most recent issue. The reduced type size in class notes is a bit small for my aging eyes, and the light green type used for class member names for classes '60 to '69 disappears into the page, making the names harder to read than the black type surrounding them. Sure would appreciate a change.

—Nancy Perry '64, *Crofton, Maryland*

ABOUT THAT TYPE, PART II

We returned home last weekend after a month away, and I found the new *Middlebury Magazine* in the bin of accumulated mail. I've only had a brief look at it but want to comment about two things.

I liked the old, shiny cover better. (Not important; maybe you're trying to save money.)

I find it really hard to pick out the names in the class columns. Those light blue, green, beige letters don't stand out at all. It used to be so easy to glance through a column and see a familiar name and then read about him/her, and now you have to wade through the whole (other class's) column looking for an interesting tidbit. *Time Magazine* has started doing that sort of thing, and so has one of the websites I check on (yellow writing on a deep blue background, virtually invisible). Is it just my aging eyesight that finds this trend upsetting or have you had other comments? From my point of view, this makes the magazine harder to read.

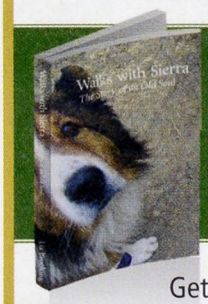
—Judy Bosworth Roësset '62, *Austin, Texas*

PART III...

I like the new formatting and better paper quality of the magazine, with one exception: the font for class notes, certainly one of the most popular sections of the magazine, is tiny. I can barely read it; and I cannot read, without a bright flashlight, the names of the Midd grads under the various year columns. The names are in tinted green or red or blue or orange, and maybe some other colors. The red is OK, the others generally illegible. But the real problem is the size of the font.

—Bob Benedetti '64, *McLean, Virginia*

"This book is meant to be shared."
– Sherri Franklin, Executive Director, Muttville Senior Dog Rescue



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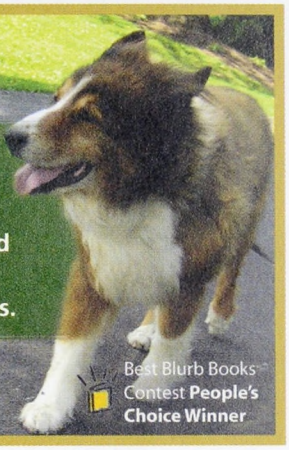

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CHIRPS FOR BROOKS AND BISACCA

Enjoyed the stories on Japanese boat builder D. Brooks & ptgs conservator G. Bisacca.
—@NancieRavenel, *Commenting on Twitter*

YOU ASKED FOR IT

I've just received and looked over carefully the fall issue of *Middlebury Magazine*, and yes, it does look and feel different!

I always used to hold the magazine as the perfect example of what one of its kind should be. Not only did I enjoy and respect it but I read every issue from front to back (even the ads).

I wish I could be as enthusiastic as many of your readers seem to be of the new format (Talk, fall 2012), but I can't. Please don't misunderstand me; I don't think it's awful, I just don't like it.

I'm sure most or maybe all of the new designs and features will meet with broad approval. The writing continues to be of the highest order. But please consider using bigger type in the body of the articles; and much bigger type in the case of picture captions and comments. To me, it looks like a sea of gray and puts me off from reading what I know is good writing.

I think you have a great magazine staff, and I wish you much good luck and success. Even if I don't love, love, love the new look.
—Theodore S. Smith, MA French '60, *Geneva, New York*

YOU ASKED, PART II

My husband (David June '63) and I (Carol June '66) enjoy the updated editorial content. Still, our major interest is news about people we know. We like to scan the class notes.

The use of green and blue names makes this very difficult. We much preferred the previous style of bold face. (BTW: I was a freelance writer and editor for 20 years, and my admittedly limited training in graphic arts stressed that such colors are hard to read. They are.)

Additionally, we would prefer one less article per issue to allow for a larger typeface in the class notes. We don't think this need will go away as we add years. Perhaps you should use the small typeface for the most recent classes and increase it for each decade. Just kidding, sort of.
—Carol Gillen June '66, *Raleigh, North Carolina*

Editors' Note: As we continue to study and consider font issues in the class notes department, we can say that we've decided to remove the light green and blue colors from our palette. Thanks for the feedback.

REMEMBERING STEPHEN FREEMAN

I met Stephen A. Freeman in the summer of 1959 when I first attended Middlebury's prestigious École française. On the first evening, during the introductory session, I was in the first row and,

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fortuitously and coincidentally, Steve sat next to me. That was the start of a friendship that only grew over the years and terminated on 10 July 1999, four decades later, when my beloved friend and mentor died. He was, is, and will always be, remembered as a quintessential beacon of level-headedness, acumen, savvy, and integrity, for he created a remarkable legacy through his commitment to the many causes to which he dedicated himself.

I am writing to state that I thoroughly enjoyed reading about Steve's naval aviation career ("Naval Aviator 1091") in the fall 2012 issue of *Middlebury Magazine*. Here was a man who greatly ameliorated the quality of life for all of us, and he will never be forgotten!

—Mel B. Yoken, French School '59, '63, *New Bedford, Massachusetts*

FOLGER-SPARKED MEMORIES

Reading about the RV *David Folger* ("The *Folger* Arrives," fall 2012) instantly brings me back to the fall of my freshman year in 1970 when I took oceanography with Professor Folger. I remember spending a lot of time scraping and painting Middlebury's first vessel, the *Bruno C. Schmidt*.

We finally got onto the lake in October and spent a fair amount of our time documenting the sludge around the International Paper plant south of Ticonderoga. Glad to see Middlebury has a faster craft, because with a flank speed in the single-digit knot range, we spent a disproportionate amount of our lab periods motoring to and from our research collection area.

—John Morosani '74, *Commenting on middmag.com*

KUDOS TO DR. FOLGER

I have fond memories of doing work on the lake with Dr. Folger—once helping him move the small boat available in the early 1970s from its southern berth to points north on the lake as our class studies dictated. Naming this new research vessel in his honor is a very fitting tribute to a man who inspired many.

—Susan Currie Price '75, *Commenting on middmag.com*

PENALTY FLAG

I noticed the article titled "The *Folger* Arrives" (fall 2012) with the accompanying photo of the research vessel tied up at the Point Bay Marina. Having spent my early Middlebury years working summers driving a yacht-club launch in Marblehead, Massachusetts, I became familiar with local yachts "dressing ship," particularly on holidays and special occasions. Confirming my doubts on the *Folger's* incorrect display of flags, in this case pennants, I referred to the United States Power Squadron flag etiquette, which indicated that the International Code of Signal Flags should have been used. As a former commercial ship captain relayed to me, the *Folger*

looked as if it was using pennants left over from a 1950s gas station celebration.
—David Percival '59, *Tenants Harbor, Maine*

AN INSPIRATION

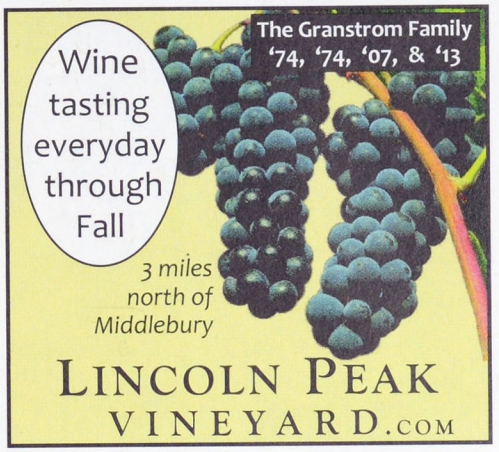
When the Dalai Lama was at Middlebury in the early 1990s, I really didn't understand what I was witnessing ("His Holiness Returns," summer 2012). It is inspiring to see the College maintaining this connection and to see the excitement and awe of those who were present. They clearly understand far more than I did when I was in their place.
—Alyssa Sinclair '94, *Commenting on middmag*

AW, SHUCKS

Among the magazines that land in my inbox, I thought the strongest years were enjoyed by *Denison*, *Middlebury*, *Portland*, and *The Penn Stater*, but that couldn't be more subjective.
—Dale Keiger, *Writing on the blog UMagazinology*

NOTES ON A SHOOT

Photographing George Bisacca '77 in the Metropolitan Museum of Art presented some interesting challenges. Because of the location of the assignment—a studio filled with artwork valued between very expensive and priceless—I could not bring traditional strobes, not even battery-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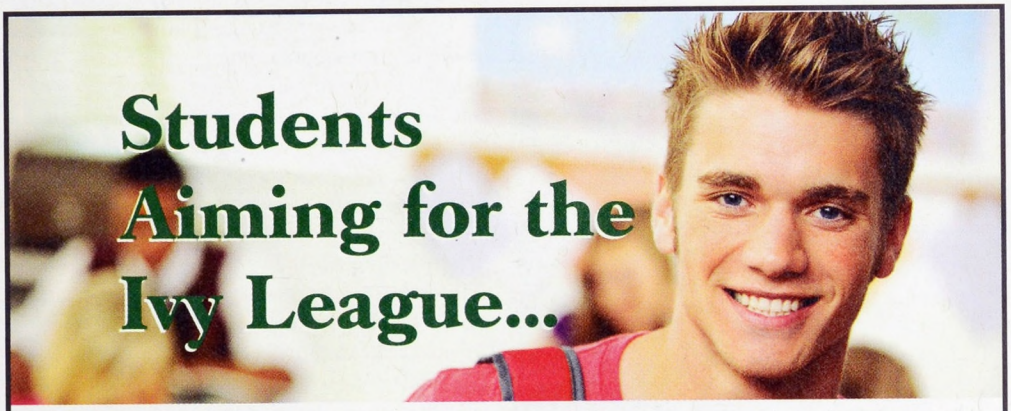

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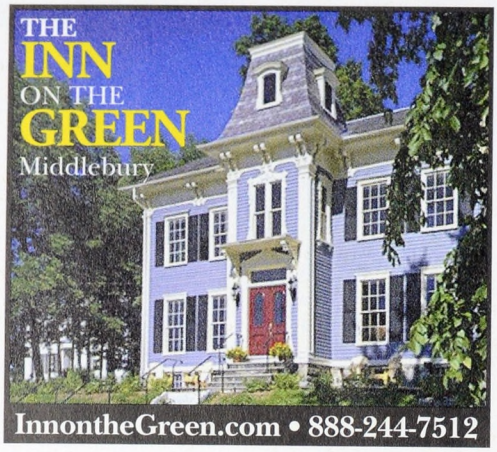

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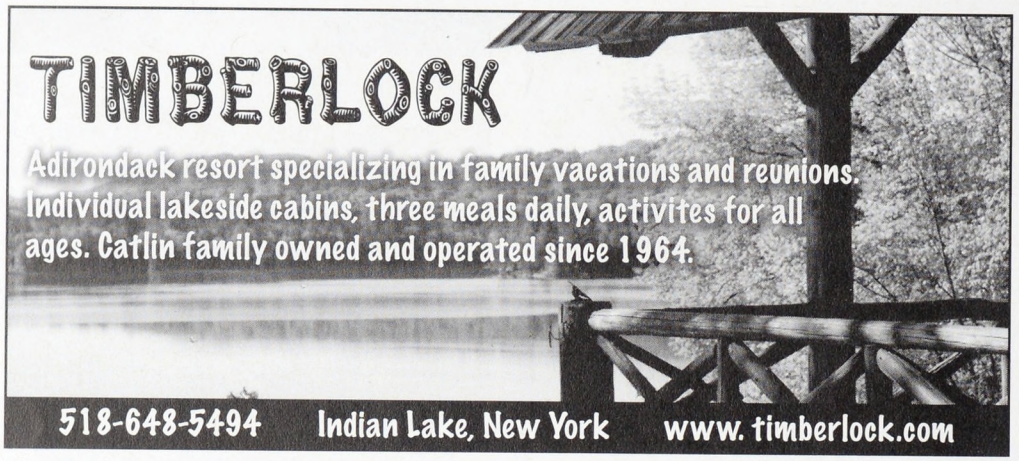
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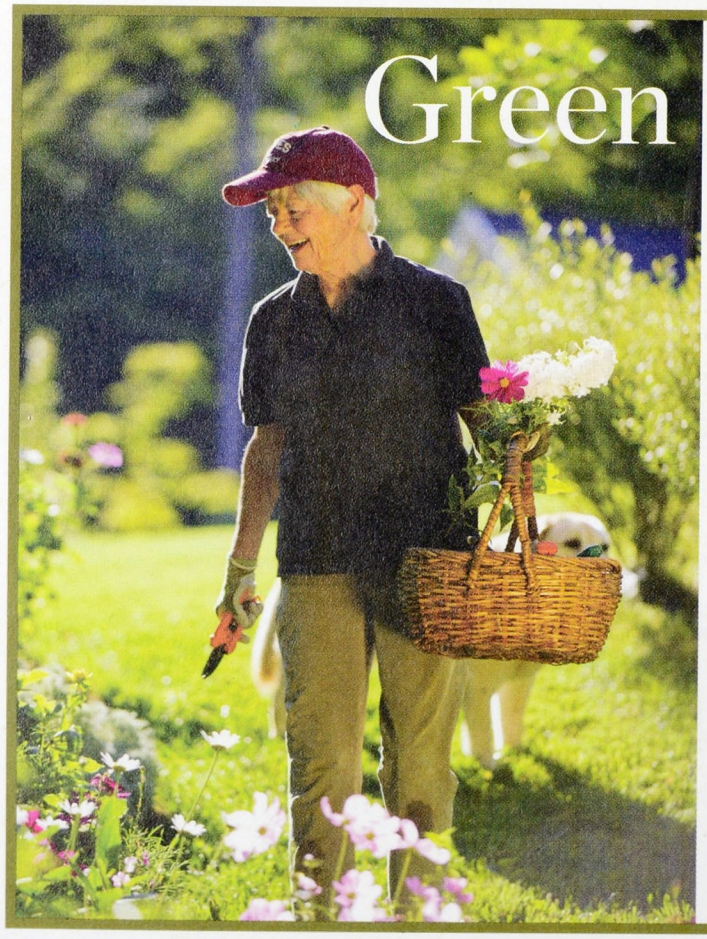
powered ones. Heavier lights, cables, and larger light modifiers were a no-go. George let me know that some of their on-site lights were LED, so I was able to bring my own LED Litepanels, which were a perfect fit. Small footprint, no cables, natural feel when matched to the ambient light.
—Jon Roemer, *"The Conservator" from the blog jon roemer.com*

WHY WE LOVE CLASS NOTES

The latest issue of *Middlebury Magazine* arrived recently; naturally I first turned to the class notes section, but this time I didn't skip immediately to the end to read about my peers.

I was delightfully surprised to read the note from Janet Kemp Doell '45 who talked about her plans to move to Alaska. I imagined a strong, proud woman lacing up her winter boots (probably LL Bean) and stepping out to weather the cold snow of Homer, Alaska, so that she could spend time with her two children and watch the sun kiss the lake next to her town between the mountains. Her note reminded me of the sound the snow made underneath my feet as I marched through the winter term to begin a new class, internship, or swim practice. Janet—thank you for sharing, and good luck in Homer!
—Kevin O'Rourke '09, *New York, New York*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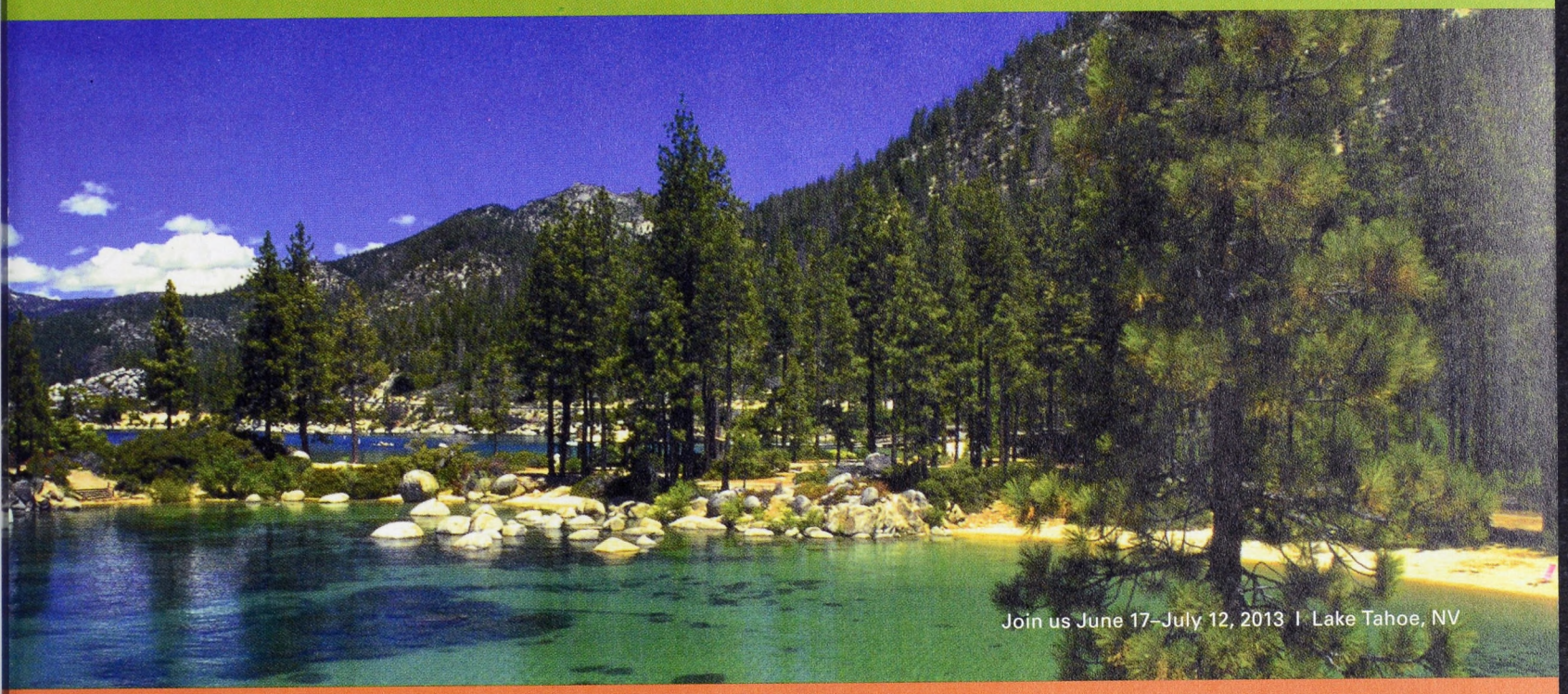

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UpFront

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Tangut Degfay '15 presents *eskista*, a traditional dance from the northern parts of Ethiopia, as part of the International Students Organization's spectacular and highly popular annual performance.

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRETT SIMISON

By The Observer

Around the Clock

Each issue, The Observer illuminates a corner of Middlebury, offering glimpses of life in Vermont, at a school abroad, or along the coast of California. In this issue, our chronicler visits the Davis Family Library during exam week.

Five bright bands of light blaze from an otherwise dark wall as one approaches the Davis Family Library from the south. It is well past ten on this December Sunday night, and with the beginning of exam period, the library has gone on the 24/7 schedule. Snow is said to be on the way, but there are 39 bicycles and one scooter propped outside the main door.

Past the caffeine-brimmed Wilson Café, past cell-phone talkers and a student smiling into a Skype screen on her laptop, through the heavy doors into the atrium, beyond circulation and help desks, to the edge of the most public space in the library: a senior crouches over sheaves of graded papers and photocopied book chapters.

He makes notes in a spiral notebook, but doesn't appear to be in a concentration groove yet. Sights and sounds: entering and exiting, rendezvous and regroupings, passing bodies, eddies of conversations from beyond shelves, a greater hubbub audible from the outside of the main doors. Here in the ringing gateway to the halls of quiet study there is a parade of distractions, and he looks up frequently. His feet take the place of papers on a low table. He produces a laptop and taps. A friend appears and there is a consultation about take-home exams as well as driving-home plans. Five minutes later, he has removed to other circumstances.

On the eastern end of the main floor, inside the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Research, a white board proclaims "Tutoring During Exams!" and lists review sessions for economics, chemistry, and math. Peer writing tutors are on call from early evening until midnight, whether at the center or at various Commons. Nearby, a sign in the Wilson Media Development Lab instructs on technological-software aid: "Turn on. Log in. Get Smart. Lynda.com. Tutor available 24/7."

Up the long curve of the staircase to the second floor, tight focus is the norm in the Quiet Study Area. Faces gleam with reflected light from laptops, elbows flanked by little ramparts of stacked books with pads and pens at the ready, and students silently build arguments, buttress theories, review a semester's stock of ideas, groping for the perfect handle to carry them all. One is hard-pressed to hear any whispers.

In an unobtrusive, 20-minute stroll past desks, study tables, carrels, darting quick glances at individual screens, not a glimmer of social media can be seen—not one Facebook or Flickr or Renren or LAGbook or LinkedIn—and not one Wikipedia page. Satisfied, relieved, even hopeful, one determines never to take such a poll again in such a place. Better not to spoil the fleeting impression.

At last heading out into the night, with one observer's exit, the overall age average at Davis Family Library plummets.

Bright and slanting daylight, a smattering of snow on the ground, and the Davis façade of local marble, granite, and limestone is a screen upon which shadows of surrounding winter trees are projected. Behind every window of the Wilson Café is a garland of Tibetan prayer flags, sending up hopes with each tiny flutter from the warm, coffee-scented updrafts of booth tables.

In the gusty vestibule, display cases commemorate the visit of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama

ILLUSTRATION BY BRETT RYDER

in 1984—posters, programs, candids from the indefatigable Middlebury photographer Erik Borg.

Farther into the building are similar displays from the Dalai Lama's appearance in 1990. There are many people in the world who would venerate the sidewalk, the flagstones, the Davis threshold, the slate and carpeted floors, because nine weeks earlier, October 12–13, His Holiness came to Middlebury again to "cultivate hope, wisdom, and compassion" with two addresses in Nelson Arena and a visit to the library to view sacred Tibetan manuscripts and a Tibetan contemporary art exhibition.

Outside Davis, the air scented by bundles of incense, the Dalai Lama blessed a newly planted Burr oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) and tied a white fringed prayer shawl around a slender trunk that one day, perhaps in a hundred years, will be as many feet tall and three or even four feet in diameter, the surrounding ground crunchy with acorns.

Inside on the second floor, in his red and saffron robes, His Holiness blessed the work, and those present of five Tibetan artists in the *Contemporary Jewels* fellowship show presented by the Vermont Studio Center of Johnson, Vermont, and lingered appreciatively before each work.

He smiled before the playful collage of Tenzing Rigdol, born 1982, *Excuse Me Sir, Which Way is to My Home?* with its central Buddha image and colorful background, entirely constructed from Tibetan brocade cloths, glossy magazine ads, and U.S. maps. He praised the artists for transforming their artistic traditions and techniques to relate to the contemporary world.

Today, in that bright exhibition corner, the 10 paintings giving off their own light, finals-preparing students in their parkas and Midd sweatshirts and watch caps bustle past the art and across the carpet on which the Dalai Lama peacefully stood.

In a study area surrounding the basement's American literature section, next to a Spiderman backpack, a female student sits on the floor, props her back against shelves of poetry. She is unmindful of an abandoned pillow in a white slip some inches away on the floor.

At the end of the row, a shelf of fiction criticism ending with these three titles: *Imagining Los Angeles*, *Los Angeles in Fiction*, and *Gillette Foamy*, a travel container of shaving soap.

Wednesday, close to cold-December midnight, from the west passing the candle-lit windows of Old Chapel; Davis Library looks like a Spielbergian Mother Ship, with the star-studded, blue-black Vermont sky overhead. Though not one of them is visible passing the moon, 41 bikes attend the main doors.

Sounds from the atrium: Footfalls of winter-weight boots on slate flagstones, buzz of a motorized hole punch, metallic sword sound of a paper cutter, the emphatic punctuation of a stapler, the rolling wheels of a heavily laden book cart fluttering with pink-colored slips.

Downstairs in the lower level, a late-night murmur from a little knot of people in a circle of easy chairs—behind them stands a rough, monumental slab of rock. Muffled but animated words leak from one of the group-study rooms ringing the area.

A female sophomore perches yards away at a table covered by a laptop, graded short stories, a fiction textbook, a water bottle, and a package of Pepperidge Farm cookies. Two male political science students at a nearby table intent on their scrolling laptops are backdropped by periodical shelves displaying recent issues of *Die Zeit*, *La Stampa*, *Le Monde*, and the *Rutland Herald*.

Recycling bins overflow. Oh, the hidden words!

Two floors above, the study carrels are still well populated at the stroke of midnight. A literature major, surrounded by towering stacks of thesis resources, looks up to blink bleary eyes and refocus. She takes a swig of tea from a thermos and extracts trail mix from a brown bag, shakes her head to realign her thoughts back below the surface of a poem, and is perhaps surprised there is no apparent rattling sound.

Back in the basement behind the display window of Special Collections, the chair, the writing lapboard, the moth-eaten cardigan, and the marble busts of Robert Frost may emanate a sympathetic vibration upward toward the weary young poet above.

Outside cold night air: smokestacker first-years stomp on slate.

Rows and phalanxes of books on their shelves and art and artifacts on the walls. On the second floor, it is of the bold-handed and pigment-generous watercolorist Arthur K. D. Healy (1902–1978), some five large modernist landscape watercolors and an oil portrait; he served on the faculty from 1943–1968.

"He was a hotel interiors architect before moving to Vermont as the first artist in residence at Middlebury," a faculty member once commented while pausing before one of the landscapes, then hanging elsewhere. "One might expect to see these paintings in a 1940s hotel room, as a matter of fact, but he trained many successful artists here and did much to support the Sheldon Museum."

More historical Vermont images line the walls and populate display cases near Special Collections downstairs—Rutland Railroad artifacts, enlargements of vintage Middlebury postcards, and framed, finely inked maps of the village of Middlebury and its surrounding town, from the F. W. Beers *Atlas of Addison County, Vermont,* 1871.

Students—perhaps even history majors—walk heedlessly past the little bygone world behind glass on the wall, where the three buildings of Middlebury College—Painter, Starr, and Old Chapel—stand figuratively on the snow-white hillside.

Behind the glass, the Rutland Railroad tracks downtown pass the Addison County Fairgrounds, crossing Otter Creek past the Battell Building, Stewart Block, the Sash & Door Mill, the cotton factory, while above the west bank of the creek, along Weybridge Street, rise the professorial edifices of President Kitchel, the Reverend Steele, Professor Brainerd, and Professor R. D. C. Robbins—scholar of Socrates, the books of Moses, the Christian epistles, who would have thoroughly enjoyed meeting His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama.

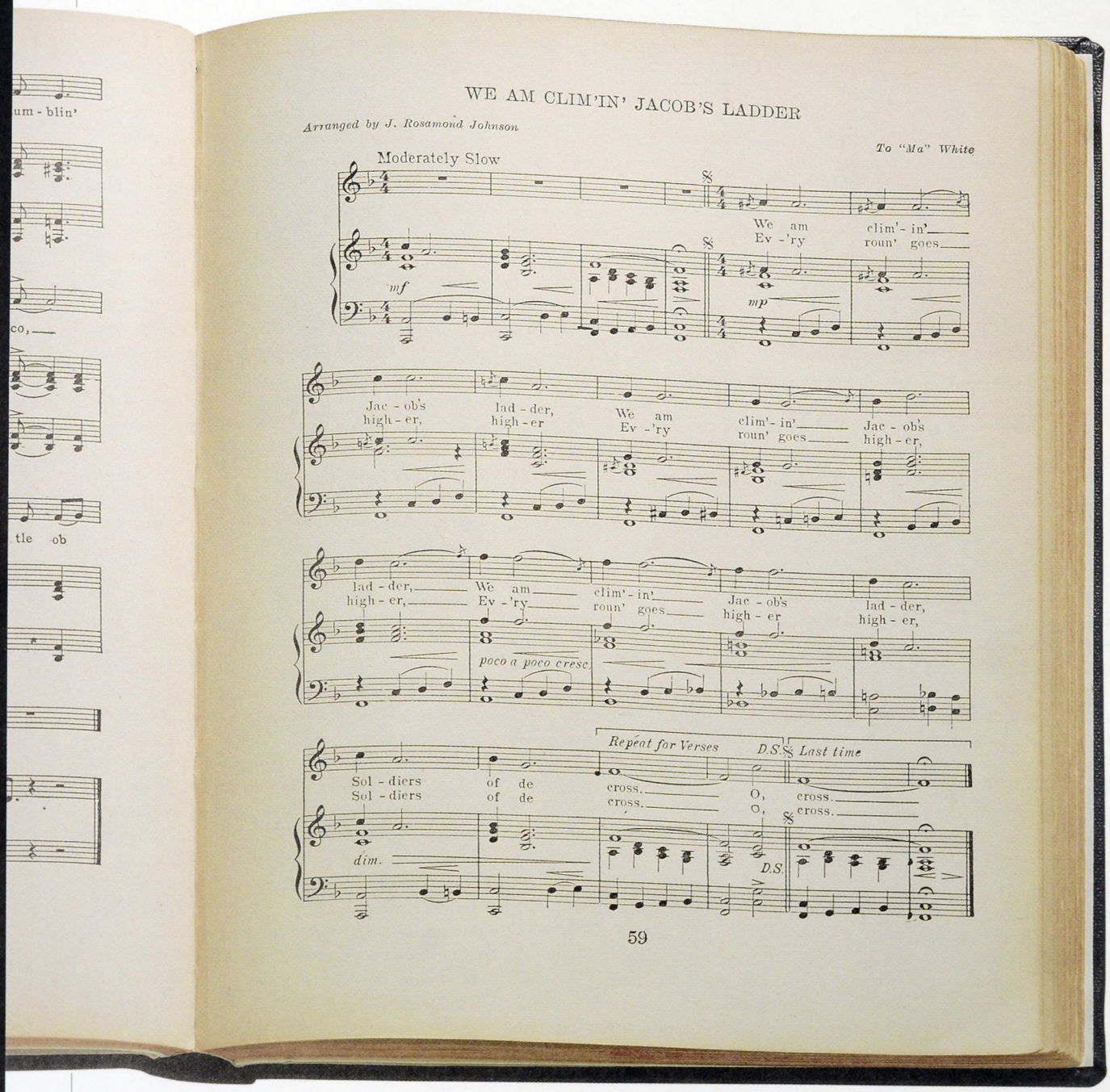
The population of a table upstairs in the Davis Family Library's Quiet Study Area, judging by an unscientific poll of textbooks and scrawls on yellow pads and spiral notebooks, seems to be running neck and neck between budding biologists and early economists, although the outcome is skewed by the presence of a patient philosopher.

Several yards away is one of two high-tech soundproofed cell-phone booths installed on opposite ends of the Quiet Study Area, northeast to southwest corners, a response in 2010 to widespread complaints about cell-phone use. The tall black tube with sliding glass door would accommodate a superhero's costume change. But at this early Thursday-morning hour, no peril looms but the ticking of a clock and the reality of finals and deadlines, and these quiet students of Middlebury College are on their own, and what's more, they will survive. M

Where should The Observer go next? Shoot us your ideas at middmag@middlebury.edu, putting the words Observer Destination in the e-mail subject line.

To read more and to view a video of Clemmons performing, visit middmag.com.

Into the Songbook

Each winter term, François Clemmons, Middlebury's Alexander Twilight Artist in Residence, teaches a course on History of the American Negro Spiritual. As he explains, to really teach the work, he must delve deeper than the words on the page.

WE AM CLIM'IN' JACOB'S LADDER

Arranged by J. Rosamond Johnson

To "Ma" White

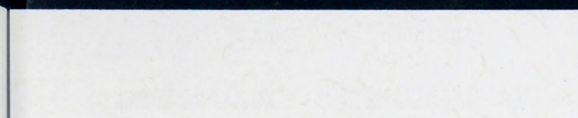
Moderately Slow

59

Spirituals appear quite simple and naïve in print—which is highly deceptive. To really teach this work, I must discuss with the class the life of slaves and their unique struggle. Most students have no real perception of this humiliating experience. And most have no idea that the songs often have a double meaning: one applicable to the Bible and its spiritual strengths and another that plans for insurrection and flights to freedom.

To truly experience the power of these songs, the class must become a family that *feels* and *shares* with each other and does not just *know* things intellectually. This occurs through a patient, understanding process beginning when I ask students to share who they are: the special characteristics of their families, their chores and hobbies, and so on. A powerful atmosphere is built that helps establish a tangible relationship with every member of the class.

We become an organic, fully functioning ensemble with one goal; to dislodge the secrets and inner codes of the American Negro Spiritual and its creators. The students begin to know themselves and the slaves as a connected people. These songs begin to express the deeper soul. The slaves who created this repertoire are no longer just *over there* or *back there* in history. Their lives and stories live today, and are worthy of knowing and sharing.



Партнерство с Театральным институтом имени Бориса Щукина в Москве дает студентам возможность не только посещать занятия, но и самим участвовать в театральных постановках вместе с российскими коллегами.

ARCHIVE

JUST THE TICKET

About half of the objects in the Middlebury College Archives are of unknown origin, and that's the situation with this box of ticket stubs, dance cards, and tiny pencils from the late 1870s through the turn of the century. Who collected them? When were they donated to the archives? What special significance do they hold? No one knows for sure.

There are ticket stubs to the Class of 1885 Commencement Concert, the 1905 Commencement Ball, an 1878 performance by the Middlebury College Quartette, and the Class of 1886 Promenade Concert (Ticket: $2).

There is a blank Report of Absences listing 35 students from 1903. There are Glee Club tickets (no date) with writing on the back. But the most alluring pieces in the collection are the dance cards from the December 1891 Junior Promenade, each with a miniature blue or white pencil attached. Women carried the cards listing the evening's waltzes, polkas, quadrilles, and circle dances, while men at the prom clamored for partners. (This was two years before women were admitted to Middlebury.)

The keepsakes were tucked inside an Allcock's Porous Plasters box ("For Lumbago and All Pains") when they were donated to the College, and they are still stored that way in the Davis Family Library.

QUOTATION

"I was familiar with [the subject matter] beforehand, but only in an academic sense. But waking up at 3 a.m. to meet the workers at the start of their first milking shift ... put it in a whole new light."

Elori Kramer '13, speaking to alt-weekly *Seven Days* about *Hide*, a 30-minute documentary on migrant dairy workers that she recently produced with Peter Coccoma '12.

To Divest?

Should Middlebury's endowment contain holdings in fossil-fuel companies? That's a question that the College will be considering in 2013. In an all-campus e-mail and on his blog, *Ron on Middlebury*, President Ronald D. Liebowitz announced in December that his administration would convene and host panel discussions in which the subject of divestment will take center stage.

As this magazine issue was going to press, Liebowitz subsequently announced that the first panel would be held on January 22 and would focus on "two topics that lie along the 'critical path' for potential changes in the College's endowment management policies and practices: What factors should the College's trustees consider in determining whether and to what extent to place new restrictions on the deployment of the College's investable wealth, and what are the pros and cons of using divestment and/or other means to address climate-related concerns?"

Panelists for the January 22 gathering were to include Alice Handy, founder and president of Investure, Middlebury's external endowment steward; Ralph Earle, a renewables-focused venture investor; Mark Kritzman, an adjunct professor in finance at MIT and prolific author on investment-related topics; Patrick Norton, vice president for finance and treasurer at Middlebury; Charles Arnowitz '13, president of the Student Government Association; and Middlebury Schumann Distinguished Scholar Bill McKibben, who, for the past several months, has been leading a national campaign to encourage nonprofits to cease investing in fossil-fuel companies.

"The management of [our] endowment is complex and has evolved over time," Liebowitz wrote in his initial announcement. "We are part of a consortium with other colleges and foundations whose pooled resources are invested in a number of 'fund-of-funds' and therefore [we are] very limited in either selecting or deleting any particular investment within [our] portfolio.

"Despite such limitations, [we] have been working to ensure that socially responsible investing is discussed and reviewed as a regular and ongoing part of the investment process."

Liebowitz announced that approximately 3.6 percent of the College's $900 million endowment is directly invested in companies related to fossil fuels. At the present, the endowment finances about 20 percent of Middlebury's annual operating cost.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY TODD BALFOUR

DOWNLOAD

Why I Love the Western

By Deborah Evans, Visiting Assistant Professor of American Studies

It wasn't love at first sight. As a child growing up in early 1970s New England, whose favorite book was *Little Women*, television serial Westerns and John Wayne marathons were an enticement only to change the channel. The genre's sanctioned violence, escapism, highly circumscribed visions of women, and idealized version of American expansionism did not speak to me.

High Noon changed all that. At the film's climax, Marshal Will Kane (Gary Cooper) stands alone on the streets of Hadleyville, awaiting a confrontation with the Miller gang. He's abandoned by the townspeople he had sworn to protect, looking scared, haggard, and uncomfortable in his own skin. The first time I saw that now-famous crane shot, I knew this was a different vision of what had seemed a familiar landscape. When I learned that Carl Foreman, the screenwriter, was under investigation by the House Un-American Activities Committee while working on *High Noon*, the questions that the film asks—Who does one trust? What is worth defending?—took on a deeper significance. I saw the film reflecting the national concerns and anxieties not just of that dusty 19th-century frontier town but also of the moment in which it was made.

Many Westerns—from *The Wild Bunch* to *Ballad of Little Jo* to *Django Unchained*—operate similarly. On one level, these films explore the racial, sexual, and political tensions of their cultural moments. Sometimes it's easier to see our society's flaws and insecurities through a hazy historical curtain like the one that the Western offers. That's what keeps me watching.

QUOTATION

"A powerful solar storm has the potential to simultaneously damage multiple transformers in the electricity grid and perhaps even bring down large sections of it, affecting upwards of a hundred million people in the United States for many months, if not years."

Yousaf Butt, a professor and scientist in residence at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, writing a *New York Times* op-ed.

MiddCORE on the Move

To learn about MiddCORE, visit middcore.middlebury.edu.

A LITTLE MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, Jessica Holmes began to field a series of phone calls about MiddCORE, the experiential-learning program she directs at the College each winter term. The calls were from peers at other institutions who wanted to know: How could they build a MiddCORE of their own? What were the secrets behind the program's success?

"So I thought, 'we could tell others how to do it, or we can look at the possibility of expanding,'" Holmes says. "And if we do it," added the econ prof with a smile, "we continue to benefit from the market niche we created."

Jump ahead to 2013, and the flagship course has indeed branched out to include two sections at Middlebury each winter, a summer internship program in Vermont (called MiddCOREplus), a winter term course at the Monterey Institute, and a four-week summer immersion experience at Sierra Nevada College on the shores of Lake Tahoe. The program at Sierra Nevada begins this summer and will be the first MiddCORE program to take place on a non-Middlebury campus.

"Sierra Nevada College is a small, intimate place that will be very attractive to students as well as to mentors," Holmes says, noting that the region serves as a bedroom community for many Silicon Valley entrepreneurs.

Like the program in Vermont (and at Monterey), summer immersion in Nevada will feature workshops and hands-on challenges designed to foster innovation and hone leadership skills, all under the tutelage of the aforementioned mentors (performers, venture capitalists, start-up entrepreneurs, and the like).

What will be different is that the Sierra Nevada program is open to students and recent graduates from *any* college or university, not just Middlebury. "We expect to attract students from traditional liberal arts colleges, but we also hope to hear from people at engineering schools, at design schools, at large research institutions, in the U.S. and abroad," Holmes says. (In fact, an Oxford student submitted the first application.)

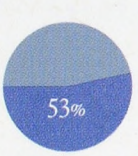
"And, honestly, no two MiddCOREs are ever the same," she adds. "The mentors may be different; the challenges are different; the failures, the solutions—all different. And that's the way it should be."

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF SIERRA NEVADA COLLEGE

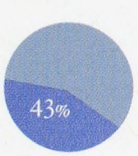
Midd Notes

The Middlebury College Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Andrew Massey, consists of 47 musicians and performs publicly four times a year—in November, January, March, and April.

This year, 47 musicians play violins, violas, cellos, a double bass, flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, French horns, trumpets, trombones, a tuba, a harp, and a timpani, and their repertoire includes Beethoven, Mozart, Copland, as well as new work from some of Middlebury's own composers.



Percentage of orchestra consisting of string instruments



Percentage of violinists who are freshmen

Percentage of student brass players who are freshmen or sophomores

4

Number of seniors in the 47-person orchestra

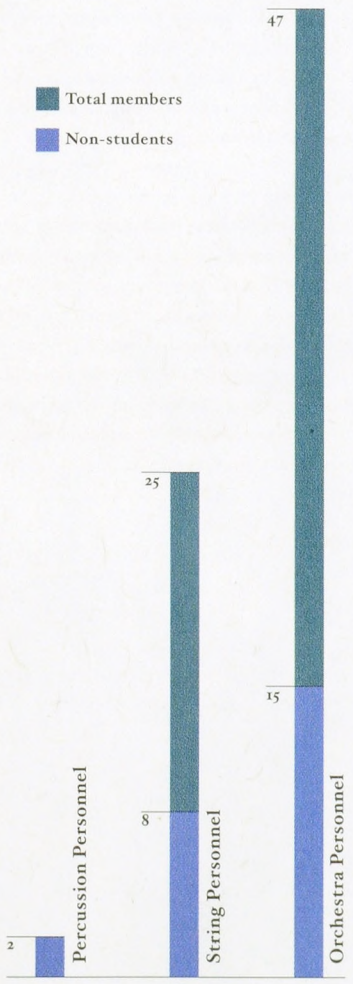
7

Age at which the concertmaster, Alexander St. Angelo '14, began studying the violin

3

Number of times conductor Andrew Massey has appeared in concert with virtuoso cellist Rostropovich

The Choice
Each January, the orchestra holds a competitive audition (the Alan and Joyce Beucher Concerto Competition) open to instrumentalists and vocalists in the student body, with the winner selected to perform in the spring concert.



Though the College orchestra is comprised primarily of students, membership is open to faculty, staff, and other community musicians. Though the percentage is not large—and is not designed to be—these performers serve an important purpose, providing not only depth and expertise, but mentoring, as well.

Sound of Midd
The orchestra's April concert will feature work by Middlebury alumnus Nicholas Tkach '11 and student life residential adviser Pete Fitton '13.

EAST VIEW

In November, the Chinese Communist Party held its 18th congress, which saw Hu Jintao step down as Party general secretary to be replaced by Xi Jinping. We turned to two China experts—Don Wyatt, the John M. McCardell Jr. Distinguished Professor of History, and Jessica Teets, an assistant professor of political science—and asked them to discuss what this means.

JESSICA: I've been amazed at how quickly the Chinese Communist Party has institutionalized a process of peaceful transition of power, using mandatory retirement ages, that changed the violent factionalism under Mao into the peaceful factionalism seen now. This recent transition of power has illustrated this factionalism in that Jiang Zemin's faction really dominated the selection of top Politburo positions over Hu's—this is one of the most conservative Politburos installed since Deng, with a dearth of minority and female representation. The conservative nature of the new leadership makes me doubt if there will be any meaningful progress on political or economic reform under Xi Jinping unless he is able to bring some more liberal elements into key leadership roles.

DON: I agree with you about the unusual seamlessness of this transition, though this result was complicated somewhat in advance by the Bo Xilai affair (and the corruption concerns it brought into high relief) and also that strange disappearance from public view by Xi Jinping, given that he was predicted to be and has now become the main man.

You are also correct in viewing Jiang Zemin's faction as having triumphed over that of Hu Jintao, with one clear indicator being how each of the seven comprising the Politburo is a former metropolitan mayor or provincial governor or both, with extensive executive, as opposed to purely technocratic, experience. To me, this commonality of experience harbingers a highly pragmatic—and non-ideological—approach to China's looming challenges. Ironically, one of the most prominent of those challenges is precisely what is represented by the cohesion of this newly emergent group of successors—namely, factionalism. I somehow don't think that is going to go away or even diminish anytime soon.

Well, in my view, the simple reduction in Politburo size from its maximum of nine members down to its minimum of seven is always indicative of a conservative turn in governance—in the spirit of a "cut off the branches, strengthen the trunk" strategy. One has to remember that each of the members of this body is autonomous, controlling his own bailiwick: Even as president, Xi Jinping can neither dismiss nor demote any of the other members. They are vested with all state power as a group, and all of China either soars under them as a collective or sinks under them.

Good point. I wonder if in fact the incident with Bo Xilai (and bizarre trial of his wife for the murder of Neil Haywood) contributed to the sudden conservative turn of the group of Politburo members. Many analysts expected that more liberal reformers would also be added—namely party organization department head Li Yuanchao and Guangdong party chief Wang Yang. However, these two protégés of Hu Jintao were passed over, supposedly due to their relative youth and opposition from conservative party elders. The scandal with Bo and his reputation as a reformer (although not a liberal reformer but more of a neo-Maoist) might have empowered Li Peng and Jiang Zemin's conservative faction over the more liberal factions.

I wonder if Hu's focus on income inequality as part of Harmonious Society policies will continue. China is currently one of the most unequal countries in the world, and inequality ranks up there with corruption in the factors that party officials are afraid will destroy the party.

I agree that "these uncertain times" are driving a lot of this turn to conservatism—namely, the slowing economy in China, increasing social unrest, and factional battles like those seen with Bo Xilai's demotion. Income inequality and corruption cause social unrest and the party seems to respond by the use of more repression and a conservative leadership body. This year the spending on domestic security outstripped national defense spending! But do you think that the reworking of the Politburo from nine to seven members is part of this turn toward conservatism, or part of a larger effort over the last 20 years to improve governance in China?

I certainly would not discount administrative streamlining as a contributing motive behind the reduction in Politburo size. However, inasmuch as the recently expressed goals of future reform are to establish a better relationship between party organizations and governmental institutions and the people *as well as* to control corruption, one can hardly doubt that the smaller Politburo is very definitely thought to be also in the interest of the latter aims. Also, your revelation that spending on domestic security has just outpaced national defense spending is news to me and must be a first. It suggests that no matter how conscientious it will be in fortifying itself against the escalating interregional storm of territorial disputes with Japan, the Philippines, and others resulting from the "peaceful rise" policy, China's new leadership will be equally conscientious in preparing for its own defense against any coming domestic storm.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOE CIARDIELLO

To watch *Do As I Say*, visit vimeo.com/52385029. To go behind the scenes of the film, visit go.middlebury.edu/behindsleepless.

PICTURE

Blue Paint. Last summer, Esme Lutz '13 traveled to Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh, India, where she interned with the Rehwa Society, a nonprofit established to promote regional craft and provide employment for women. Her photographs documenting the experience have been used in Rehwa promotional materials and were on exhibit this fall at the student-run M Gallery off campus. "Photography serves as a means to transcend barriers both spatial and temporal," Lutz says. "A medium beyond language, it allows the viewer to intimately gain access to corners of the world not yet encountered, thereby creating connections."

All Day, All Night

New cinematic ground was not broken in *Do As I Say*, Middlebury's entry in the Vermont International Film Festival's "Sleepless in Burlington" competition. But as an eight-minute drama that was conceived, written, cast, shot, and edited within a 24-hour time frame, all while incorporating contest-required elements (a line from a Phish song, a street mural in Burlington)? Well, let's just say this tale of a good father gone bad is pretty damn compelling.

Written by David Seamans '13, directed by Hunter Nolan '13, filmed by Zachary Doleac '13, edited by Matthew Lennon '13, with sound design by Michael Gadomski '13, *Do As I Say* packs a fair amount of complexity into a fairly straightforward morality tale.

Seamans' script begins with a subtle misdirection—the troubled family you meet at the outset and the kind, advice-wielding father figure are not quite as they seem. And Lennon's editing proves to be sound, deftly weaving the two narratives strands together until they intersect at the end of the short. (That this editing was done under such a time crunch with no allowance for reshoots or script adjustment makes the feat even more impressive.)

Says writer Seamans of the experience: "I've done creative marathon projects for writing before, but what's incredible about marathon film competitions is that anything ends up working at all. There's so much technology, so much craft, and far too many interlocking parts (and not nearly enough time to coordinate it all), that the final product is nothing short of a small miracle."

Seamans adds that if he had the chance to do anything differently, he would "make sure the script didn't rely on intricate actions too much because those were the first things to get cut when we were running out of time."

But in the end, he says, "we had a team that really clicked."

Now, imagine what these five filmmakers could do with, say, a 30-minute film and a month of production time.

NUMBERS

About two years ago, the College launched a fund-raising effort that pairs microphilanthropy with online crowd-sourcing—think Kickstarter for the higher-ed set. Donors are able to target specific projects they would like to fund, and students have a tool to raise money for entrepreneurial efforts. This new fund-raising venture, called MiddSTART, can also be used to create MiddSTART student scholarships. Before a project can be posted to the MiddSTART page, students must submit an application that is reviewed by the Project on Creativity and Innovation and College Advancement.

6

NUMBER OF STUDENT PROJECTS CURRENTLY SEEKING FUNDING

2

NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS SEEKING FUNDING

5

NUMBER OF "ALTERNATIVE" SPRING-BREAK TRIPS SEEKING FUNDING

1

STUDENT PROJECT TO CREATE A PROTEIN BAR MADE OF CRICKETS

1,390

MIDDSTART DONATIONS SINCE LAUNCH

Ski Nation Comes to Vermont

Middlebury's ski facilities, the Snow Bowl and the Rikert Nordic Center, have welcomed the region's finest collegiate teams and skiers—including many future Olympians—over the years. This March, the nation's best intercollegiate skiers will descend on Vermont and the College's two ski sites as the Bowl and Rikert host the 2013 NCAA Championships.

ILLUSTRATION BY TRACY WALKER

1 TRAIL SETTING
All of the Nordic championship races—the 5k and 10k classical and 15k and 20k freestyle—will take place on the Tormondsen Family Race Trail. Middlebury is the only college in the country with a trail certified at the highest level.

2 FIELDS OF FROST
Rikert has 25 groomed trails covering 50km, including the Frost Fields loop. One of the more remote trails, the Frost loop, located in the northern region of Rikert, takes skiers right past the Robert Frost Cabin.

3 CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?
There's no cell-phone reception at Rikert, so if folks need to make a call, they'll have to make like Clark Kent and pop into the phone booth a stone's throw away from the touring center.

4 IT'S ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE
The alpine races will take place just up the road at the Snow Bowl. Men's and women's giant slalom will be on the Allen Trail (vertical drop 250m); the slalom will be on Ross (vertical 156m).

5 LAKE EFFECT
Located just off the Long Trail, Lake Pleiad is one of the highest lakes in Vermont and a favorite hiking destination and swimming spot. Save your dips for summer, though: the water might be a wee bit chilly this time of year.

6 FUELING STATION
The Bowl's Starr Shelter is a great place to escape the chill, especially if you can find a spot by the roaring fire in the giant stone fireplace. And you don't want to forgo soup in a bread bowl, a must-have on a cold day.

INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT LIEBOWITZ

Language History

In higher education, language learning is synonymous with Middlebury. For nearly a century, the College has held unique status as an unquestioned leader in intensive, immersive, language instruction. We recently spoke to President Liebowitz about how this came to be, how language instruction at Middlebury has evolved, and where we are headed in the future.

How did this legacy begin?

We happened to have been the fortunate receptors of a bizarre idea in 1915, which was to replicate Germany at a time when the country was out of reach to individuals because of World War I.

For about three years, a Vassar professor named Lilian Stroebe had been looking for a remote location in the United States where she could establish a school for learning German. She had very specific needs—which is why she had been looking for three years—that included the necessary infrastructure to house, feed, and instruct students, yet be situated in a place where there would be few, if any, distractions. Her plan was predicated on total learning immersion, where students would eat, sleep, live, and breathe German.

Poughkeepsie wouldn't work; it was a bustling mill town at the time. So she searched. And in 1915, a colleague of hers was taking a train ride through the Champlain Valley and saw buildings under construction on a hilltop; a fellow passenger told her that she was looking at Middlebury College. This colleague had found Stroebe's ideal location. Fortunately for us, Middlebury President John Thomas saw the wisdom in Stroebe's idea and granted her the right to begin the Middlebury German School. Schools in French and Spanish followed soon after.

How was this received at the College?

Well, it challenged the status quo of what was going on at four-year liberal arts colleges, this idea of utilizing the campus during the summer for educational purposes. And a Vassar professor proposed it; so it wasn't organic or homegrown. And, I believe there was a concern that it would dilute or minimize the role of the September to May academic program.

In any case, President Thomas and the board argued that it was worth the experiment. By embracing the notion of total language immersion and by establishing what was really a separate entity for older, post-baccalaureate students, which was open only during the summer months . . . you can reasonably say that this was one of the most important decisions in the history of the College. It launched the College's "international" efforts and broadened Middlebury's horizons in many ways.

Was it deliberate to enroll only older students?

Yes. At the beginning—and for several decades after—the Language Schools were populated almost entirely by students who were pursuing or going to pursue graduate degrees. And once the Schools were well established, by the time of Stephen Freeman's tenure as vice president, oversight of the Language Schools was quite separate from the rest of the institution, even though we are a small college.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRETT RYDER

When Freeman was vice president (the 1940s), there were fewer than 1,000 students on this campus, yet the summer Language Schools enrolled more than 1,000 students during this period. This was a program that was set up for a different cohort of learners, with more than 90 percent of them pursuing master's degrees.

Let's talk about the fact that there is not a "Middlebury method"...

Right, but there is a Middlebury way: intensively immerse the student in the target language and culture; provide that student with the best teachers possible; have that student eat, sleep, and breathe the foreign language; provide a cocurricular program that reinforces the way you communicate; and reinforce it with the Language Pledge—every student signs it and thereby pledges to speak only the target language while in the program (24/7 for the entire session). The Language Pledge is the defining characteristic of language learning at Middlebury. It's what has set us apart—it's how we became established as language leaders.

What's interesting about this approach is that it was a key component of Stroebe's vision; it's why she chose such a remote location as Middlebury. But during the first several decades, I'm not sure how much of a challenge the Pledge was because, remember, the learners were graduate students then. There was some proficiency in language among them all. Immersion was essential to learning, absolutely, but everyone coming to the Language Schools had some facility with the language they were studying when they arrived. This changed with the introduction of some older student "beginners" in some Schools, but the numbers were small. But that began to change.

By the time I spent my first year at the Russian School (more than 30 years ago), the Language Pledge was in full force and quite noticeable. I was taking beginning Russian, and I can tell you, it was brutal not being able to communicate easily. But there's no better way to learn a language.

So when did this enrollment philosophy change?

It was a decisive choice in the 1970s, one that coincided with the advent and rise of study abroad for undergraduates. We had been running schools abroad, in language, for graduate students for years, beginning in Paris in 1949. But by the 1960s, a movement arose in undergraduate education that spending one's junior year abroad was a good way to expand the horizons of our students. Since we had the schools in place to serve the graduate students enrolled in our Language Schools, it was logical to use those programs to serve *undergraduates*, too. But still, the philosophy was to commit our students to total language immersion. This means we had to better prepare these students; they would have to be able to speak the language at a certain level of proficiency when they went abroad, which, in turn, led to increased interest in undergraduate enrollment in the Language Schools. More than 150 Middlebury undergraduates now enroll in the Language Schools each summer, most before leaving for their intensive, immersive junior year or semester abroad.

Now, there was a fear among some at the Language Schools that undergraduates, specifically beginners, would change the immersion atmosphere and weaken the effectiveness of the Schools; that is, beginners would make total immersion impossible. But that proved not to be the case.

We now have 37 sites abroad, but one thing that hasn't changed is full language immersion.

Right. One of our challenges in our study abroad philosophy is that students are expected to sign a Language Pledge when they go abroad to Middlebury schools. In most of our programs, they are immersed in the target language, learning among local students, native speakers. They're not just taking a French class. They're taking a history class, in French; politics, economics, art history, and so on, in French. On the one hand, that creates the ability for students to take so-called "content" courses in language. It's so valuable to learn this way, and it is unusual, too. But it's excruciatingly difficult and challenging. You're living in a new environment, and it takes a while to adjust, even if the best language teachers prepare you. It's an eye-opening experience for most students and, I should add, potentially frustrating. So there are mixed emotions among our students about study abroad. It's not what you see in the movies: junior-year abroad in Paris, enjoying the finer parts of French culture while still studying in English. Our approach is very challenging, but the rewards on many fronts are clear and often come later.

For some, the trade-off can be the enjoyment factor. We're wrestling with this feedback we're getting from our students. They typically attain a far greater degree of linguistic growth and competency than students in other programs, but a number of them, to be honest, will say that their time abroad is not as fun as others. And that's something for us to wrestle with; kids want to have fun. Surprise! It's a balancing act.

What about the impact of the Language Schools on the undergraduate curriculum? Japanese wasn't taught until the Japanese School opened...

And Chinese, and Arabic, and Modern Hebrew. The evolution of the Language Schools and the selection of the new ones—starting with the opening of the Chinese School in 1966—mirror and reflect the demands coming out of the undergraduate College.

John Berninghausen, who built our undergraduate Chinese department and is now an emeritus professor, will tell you that the Language Schools brought excellence to many of our language departments. Our undergraduate language departments are among the best in the country because we've had a huge advantage of having decades of experience coming from the Language Schools to the undergraduate College. It has had a profound impact on the quality of our undergraduate language instruction.

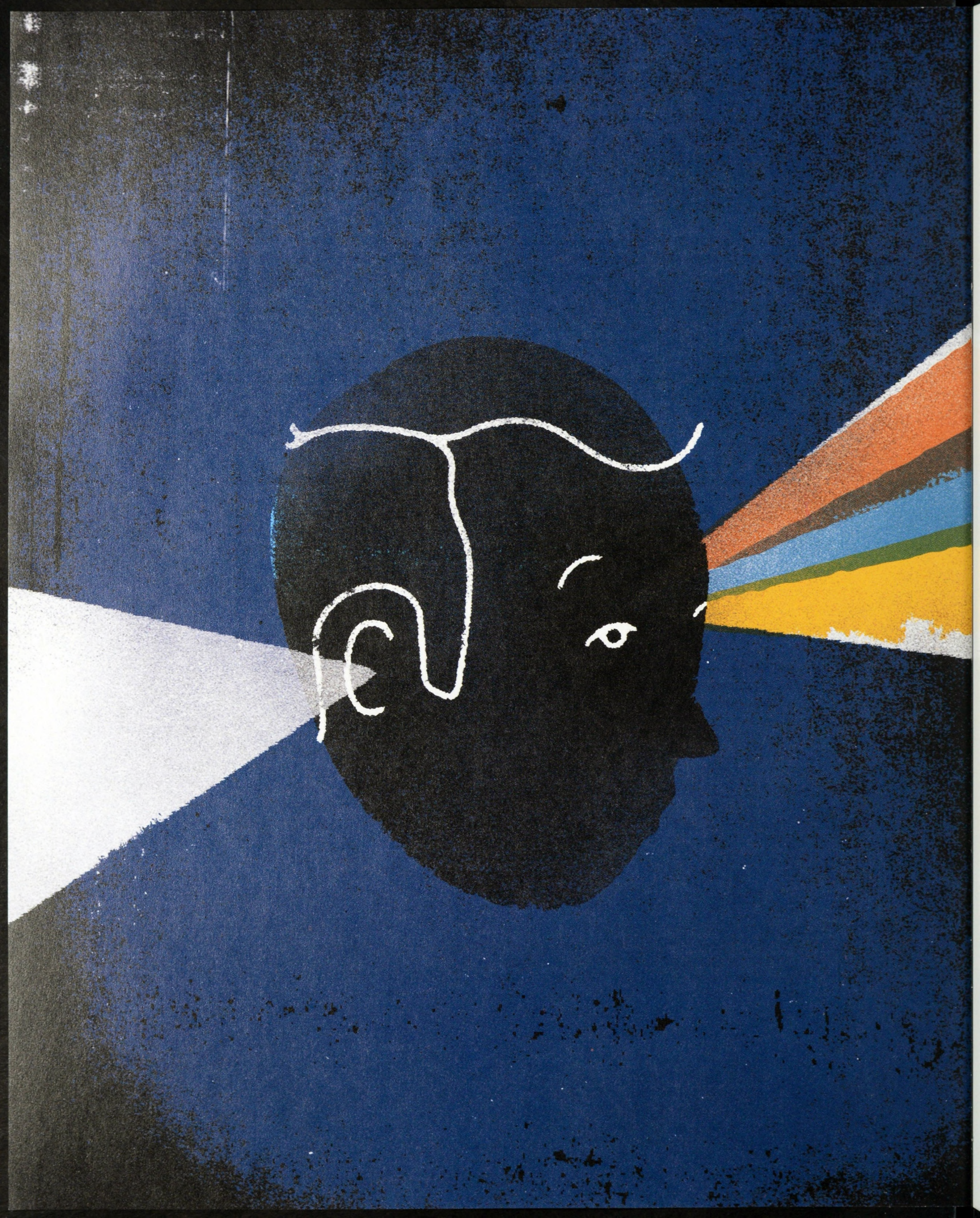
So, where are we headed?

We need to continue to perfect and improve upon our pedagogy that deals with face-to-face instruction, plus develop online content, providing a viable hybrid approach to learning.

We're very good at bricks-and-mortar teaching and learning; we've been doing it at a very high level for close to 100 years. We're also developing our online capabilities—and within this, we're finding that the demand for a hybrid approach is great. Face-to-face instruction combined with excellent online content that can be accessed anytime, anywhere.

Ten years from now, bricks and mortar will still be incredibly important and central to certain types of learning. But rich, authentic, high-quality, immersive, online content will be essential. There's great demand from students who have gained a whole year in linguistic competency during an intensive summer language session to retain their proficiency. And unless you are going to immerse yourself in a country where the language is spoken, or return to the Language School, you will not find an equivalent academic environment than what quality online material can provide.

And then there is the hybrid approach. We will need to continue to develop pedagogies that embrace both in-person and online learning in a way that each complements the other. We can't predict with any confidence how things will look more than a few years out. In the 1990s, the College engaged in creating multimedia content for language teaching in a broad, systematic way. But technology was the inhibitor to innovation in pedagogy. Today, technology has evolved and advanced so greatly it no longer serves as the inhibitor, but is the facilitator of new approaches to learning. Yet, the current technology will evolve further, making online learning even more natural, appealing, and effective to students. We need to be prepared to take advantage of such changes if we wish to retain our leadership position in the teaching of language and culture and prepare our students for life beyond Middlebury.



What is the Meaning of "Meaning"?

By John Spackman, *Illustrations by Heads of State*

What is the meaning of "meaning"? This apparently recondite question, posed by the philosopher Hilary Putnam in a seminal 1975 paper, actually lies at the core of the branch of linguistics known as semantics. How we answer this question will have important implications for a variety of issues that are currently hotly debated in linguistics, such as whether some concepts are innate, whether different languages create different styles of thought or experience (linguistic determinism), how languages are learned, and so on. In the second half of the 20th century, the prevalent commonsense view of meaning faced a number of serious challenges, but none was as potentially revolutionary as that raised by Putnam and other similarly minded philosophers of language.

I always begin my Philosophy of Language course by asking students what they take to be "the meaning of 'meaning,'" and the most common initial response is, in short, that meaning is something in the head. The meaning of a sentence like "It's six PM in Denver now" is a thought in the mind of the speaker, presumably the thought that right now the time in Denver is six PM; the meaning of a word, for instance "cauliflower," is the speaker's concept of that thing. This view is a very commonsensical one for us today, and also one with a long historical pedigree. The 17th century philosopher John Locke held that a man's words "stand as marks for the ideas in his own mind, whereby they might be made known to others, and the thoughts of men's minds be conveyed from one to another."

But Putnam and other philosophers, such as Saul Kripke, raised deep-seated objections to the idea theory, objections whose implications philosophers and linguists are still trying to unravel. Putnam's challenge takes the form of a thought experiment involving a make-believe planet called "Twin Earth." Imagine, he says, that somewhere in the universe there is a planet that is, with one exception, molecule for molecule identical with Earth. On Twin Earth there are twin trees and twin rocks. There are even doppelgangers of you and me, who speak something that sounds just like English. The *only* difference between the two planets is that on Twin Earth, the lakes and rivers don't contain H_2O, but a substance with a different chemical formula we can abbreviate XYZ. XYZ is, to the naked eye, indistinguishable from H_2O, and Twin Earthians drink it, cook with it, and even call it by the same sound we use, "water."

But, Putnam asks, what does the Twin Earthian word "water" mean? Clearly, it does not mean water. After all, water is H_2O, not XYZ; a substance with a different chemical formula would not be called water. But—and here's the rub—this difference of meaning would exist even if Person A on Earth and Twin Person A on Twin Earth were exactly identical in terms of what's "in their heads." Suppose that it's the year 1750 (Earth time), and no one on either Earth or Twin Earth has any understanding of chemical composition. Person A and Twin Person A will then share all the same beliefs about their respective liquids: that it's clear, odorless, thirst-quenching on a summer's day, and so on. But even so, the meaning of Twin Person A's term "water" cannot be water, for this term refers to XYZ, not H_2O. Person A's and Twin Person A's "concepts" of these substances are identical, and yet the meanings of their terms are different. So meanings cannot just be concepts. As Putnam puts it, "Cut the pie any way you like, 'meaning' just ain't in the head!"

Or, at any rate, not *wholly* in the head. Putnam's proposal is actually that the meaning of most words includes two components: one that is not in the head, the word's extension, or the things to which it applies (in the case of water, H_2O); and one that is in the head, the word's "stereotype." This may seem, to put it mildly, surprising. How could H_2O itself be part of the meaning of "water" in 1750, before anyone knew that water was H_2O? Putnam's idea is that "water", and indeed most words, are actually akin to indexical words like "this," "that," and "now," whose meaning depends on context. What I mean when I say "that" depends on whether I'm pointing to my cat or my car, and if I'm pointing to my cat, what I mean is *the cat itself*. In a similar way, the meaning of "water" "reaches out" to encompass the actual stuff in the world to which the word refers, even if the speaker doesn't fully know the nature of that stuff.

Putnam's view of meaning has sparked a great deal of controversy since it was proposed, but it has had a tremendous influence. What are its implications? What it means for broader questions concerning, for instance, the innateness of language and linguistic determinism, is still very much a subject of debate. However these specific issues are decided, this new perspective has suggested to many a broad reorientation of our way of thinking about the relationship between the mind and the world. The idea theory of meaning, by picturing meaning as something wholly within the speaker's head, in a sense separates the mind from the world. On Putnam's view, the meanings we grasp with our minds encompass things outside the mind, which suggests we should think of the mind as fundamentally open to the world, rather than closed in on itself.

For those who accept Putnam's argument, there is much work to be done in order to understand what exactly this means about the nature of human subjectivity and its relation to the world. M

John Spackman is an associate professor of philosophy. He teaches a course at Middlebury titled "Philosophy of Language."

The Digital Scene

By Matt Jennings

In the late 1980s, when Jane Swift arrived as a freshman at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, after attending public schools in western Massachusetts, she says it didn't take long before she noticed a "vibrant, Technicolor gap" between her precollegiate preparation and those of her peers who had attended private schools; it was most pronounced, she says, in the realm of language education.

"I have this distinct recollection of having a steeper learning curve," says Swift, the former Massachusetts governor and current CEO of Middlebury Interactive Languages (MIL), the joint commercial venture between Middlebury College and K12, Inc. "It opened my eyes, and it later became my focus in public office and in the private sector: how can we better facilitate access to high-quality education in the United States? Technology and its innovative applications seemed to be this untapped area where we could vastly broaden our reach in an affordable way."

And this access—or lack of it—has had a profound impact on language learning, says Middlebury President Ron Liebowitz. "There is a huge language gap in the United States, a crisis in terms of the number of people who are proficient in foreign languages," he says. "We're not adequately preparing our next generation; students typically need to wait until the age of 18 to begin the study of language in any serious way. That's a problem."

With education budgets being slashed across the country—according to a recent analysis by the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 35 states are spending less per pupil than they were five years ago—there likely will be fewer language instructors in this country's public schools in the years ahead, not more.

While this trend may be troubling, many agree with Swift that an innovative technological approach would not only lessen the impact but would also make language learning in our nation's public schools more effective.

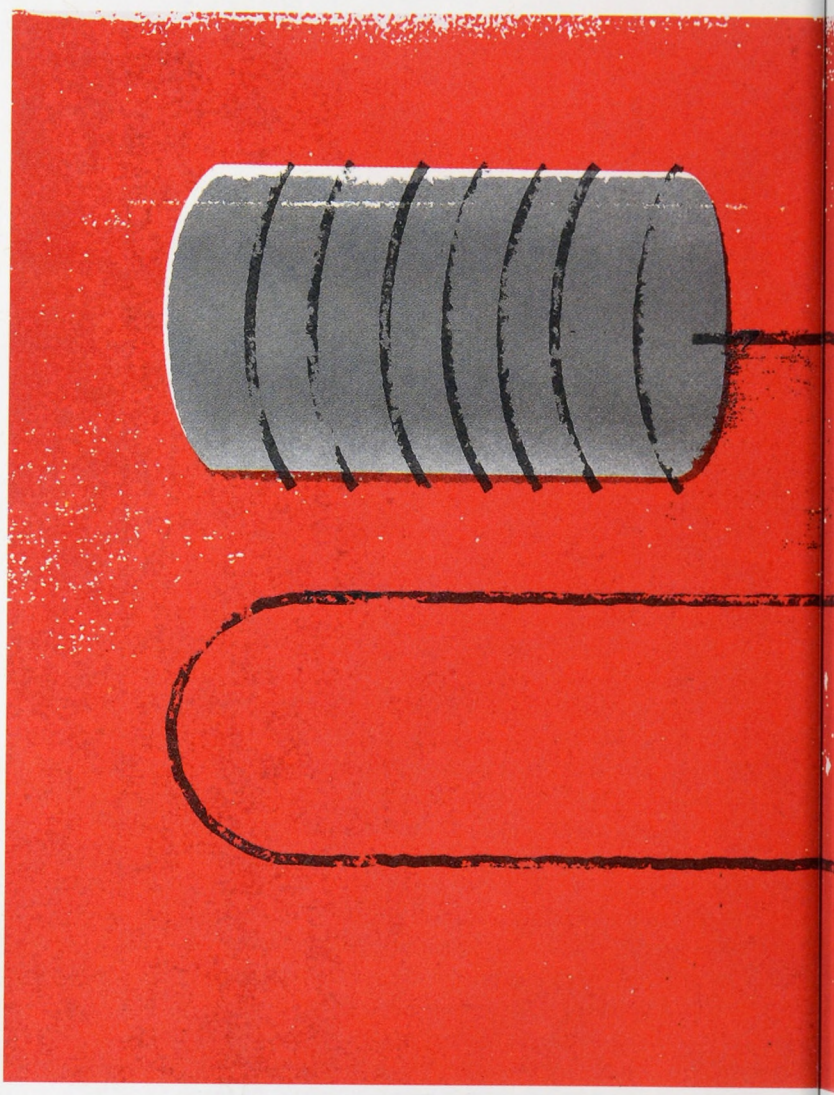
"A comprehensive online solution is everyone's holy grail," Phil Hubbard, a senior lecturer in linguistics at Stanford, told the *Pacific Standard* magazine's Bonnie Tsui for a story titled, "What's the Secret to Learning a Second Language?" "A lot of people developing these programs have a good idea, but no particular experience in language teaching," he added. "They leverage one part of it, but don't do the other parts well."

It was with this in mind that Middlebury partnered with K12 to launch MIL in 2010. K12 is a leader in educational technology and would bring the digital expertise; Middlebury language instructors would design the curriculum, and, most important, would attempt to translate Middlebury's century-old intensive immersion philosophy to the online realm.

"The drill-and-kill approach . . . doesn't work," Vice President of Language Schools Michael Geisler told Tsui for the *Pacific Standard* story. "Scripted dialogue and picture association . . . [are] not going to teach you the language."

"Contextualized learning is the key," Geisler told me in a conversation we had in December about the development of the programs. "We spent a lot of time talking about how to introduce this philosophy into an online curriculum," he said.

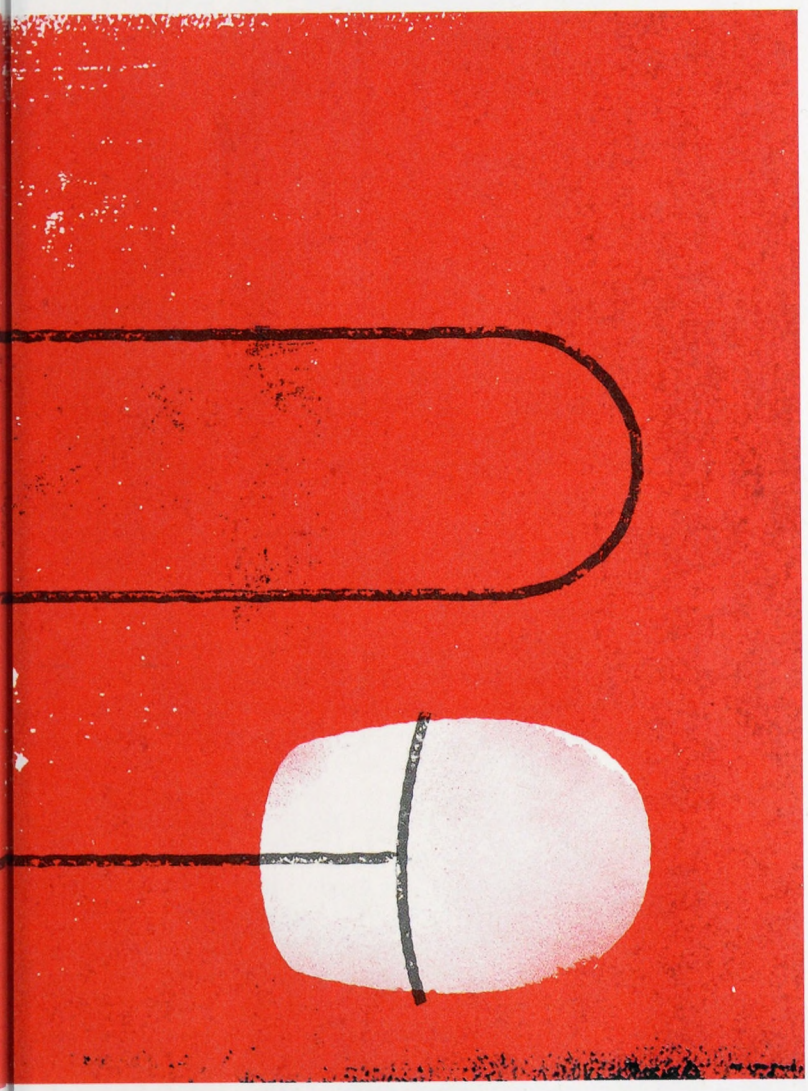
By contextualization, Geisler means using clues that come from the context of the experience to acquire the information one needs to truly understand a language. He considers this to be one of four key principles to language learning. To attain contextualization online, MIL has developed video tutorials and virtual worlds using authentic material that will provide students with body-language clues, recognizable surroundings, and visual and verbal tone. "We're trying to teach students to look for what they know (cognates, creative guesses)," Geisler said. "Not for what they don't know."



Geisler acknowledged that contextualization doesn't come as easily online as it does face-to-face. In person, if you say something, you can see instantly how your message was received. ("As the German poet Heinrich Heine wrote, 'Once the arrow has left the bow, it is no longer the archer's,'" Geisler noted.) Facial recognition isn't as intuitive in a virtual world, though Geisler added that by using an application such as Skype to communicate with an instructor or a peer, this disadvantage is greatly lessened.

This speaks to another of the four key language-learning principles, interaction with others. (The other two are using the language and using it for a purpose.) "But online, you can do it at your own pace, which is very useful for people with different learning styles," Geisler explained.

"Think about the shy student, the student who needs more time. This person can ease into interaction online at their own pace, when they are



"There is a huge language gap in the United States, a crisis in terms of the number of people who are proficient in foreign languages."

more comfortable. They're not under the same pressure they would be in a traditional classroom. Of course, when they are more comfortable, we do want them to seek out this personal interaction."

I asked Geisler about the traditional classroom. Is there a concern that if this online model is as successful as they believe it will be, it will hasten attrition among foreign language instructors? That is, will machine replace man?

"Not if things go right," he said. "We see online learning as providing more foreign language resources in a more cost-effective manner. Once school districts find out that they can deploy teachers more efficiently, to reach larger numbers of students, there will be an incentive for bringing back some languages that are currently threatened by tight budgets."

MIL offers three delivery models—a stand-alone model, a supplemental model that a student may use at home to enhance his or her classroom instruction, and a hybrid approach in which the foreign language instructor incorporates online learning into his or her curriculum. Geisler and others believe that the hybrid approach is the most effective way to learn a language. But the supplemental and stand-alone models exist for a reason. The hybrid approach may be optimal, but if it's not feasible within certain schools, providing students with other options is better than having no options at all.

"Think about it this way," Jane Swift says. "Let's say you have access to the very best teacher possible. Well, you can never replace that. But let's say you don't have that teacher as an option. Let's say your school is going to cut Spanish. Or let's say you want to learn Russian and your school doesn't offer it. We can replicate that instruction in a fashion."

She continues: "We can give you a quality learning experience—*whenever* you want it and at your own pace. It might not be the same as having that specific teacher in your classroom, but how many schools have that? Fewer and fewer. For those that don't, we can help fill that void and close that gap. And for those that do, well, these programs will only make that instruction even better." M

The D Word: *Living with dyslexia*

By Dylan Redford '14, as told to Matt Jennings

The time that stands out to me, the time when I first realized that I was different, was when I was in the third grade.

At my school, all of the kids in the third grade were asked to read a children's book to the first graders. This program instilled a very real sense of, I don't know, superiority, I guess. The age difference between first and third grade isn't great, but in third grade you can read; it was a differentiator. Reading was imbedded into that sense of identity as a third grader; we were the "big kids," and we were going to demonstrate it by doing something the first graders couldn't.

Up until this point, I don't think I had a full understanding that I couldn't read like my classmates. I just knew that it was hard, and that was the extent of it. I thought it was like that for everybody. But when it came time for us to choose our books, I remember kids choosing these chapter books, the Magic Tree House series, to show off their reading chops; or maybe they were picking more simple books they had been able to read for a while, books that the first-graders were just learning to read.

So I went that route, picking *The Cat in the Hat*—except I couldn't read it. I knew what the story was about because my parents always read to me at bedtime, and I had a pretty good visual memory of the book. I knew how many words there were on a page. The pictures somewhat corresponded with the words, and I could remember the pictures. So up until "reading day" I would have my parents read me that book, and I would try and memorize the story. I would try to remember the words that they were saying.

And then it came time to read the book aloud to the first-graders. And it was right then, when I was sweating, my hands shaking, fumbling for words . . . that's when I knew. These kids were correcting me. *They* could read it. And I couldn't.

That's when it dawned on me that there was this structure, this hierarchy in the educational world—third-graders should be able to do things that first-graders couldn't—and I didn't have a place in it.

I was given the diagnosis in the fourth grade, and it came with such a profound sense of relief. Up until that point, I just felt that I wasn't smart enough; I couldn't do what the teachers felt I could do. So getting the diagnosis—that was the ultimate clarification that I was different, but that was *good*. Suddenly, there was a category that I fit into; I wasn't alone.

Being diagnosed as dyslexic immediately gave me a sense of what my strengths were and what my weaknesses were. To get these laid out for me was so important because it told me that, OK, there are things I'm going to struggle with, but there are also things that I won't struggle with. Before, I had no confidence; I just assumed everything would be a struggle.

I was so lucky that my mom was a teacher, because she never had the belief that there were "normal" kids and there were kids who didn't fit that definition. She sees each kid as an individual learner. The concept that there's a standard student and there's a student who needs accommodations is ridiculous because there is no "standard" student. She inherently understood that. Up until my diagnosis, I might have felt alone at school, but never at home.

In high school, I loved studio art, and I think it was expected that because I was dyslexic and because I was good at art, that I'd go to art school. But I saw this as a copout, I saw this as running away from my dyslexia, of conforming to others' beliefs in what I could or couldn't do. I had this deep drive to prove to people that I could do academics. I was going to go to a rigorous liberal arts school! And then I was going to be a history major!

When I got here, I felt like Middlebury had taken a risk with me; I was a risky investment. I mean, I knew what I could do, but how could they know for sure? I had bad SAT scores, and I probably spelled some stuff wrong on the application. So I put pressure on myself to prove that kids with learning disabilities, kids who don't do well on the SATs, can contribute a lot to the community—they can be creators, innovators.

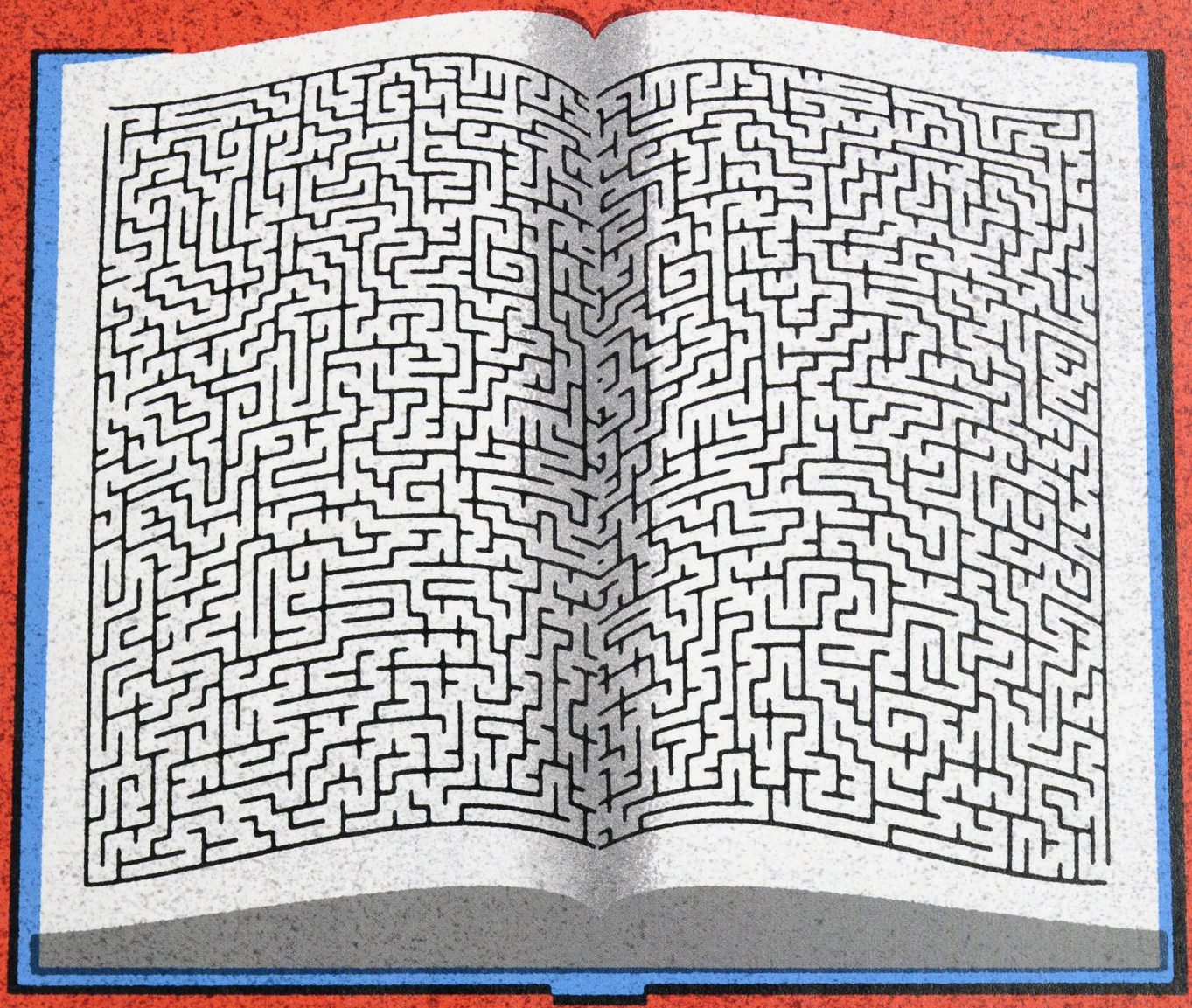
At first I thought that meant excelling in areas I wouldn't normally excel in and limiting myself to one studio art course a semester—things like that. And I did well. But then I wondered, Why am I not doing what I really want to do? I remember being told that I was going to reach a point in my life when I'd be able to do the things that I wanted to do, that I wouldn't always have to work so hard to overcome my learning difference.

But there's no guy standing on the corner saying, "You know that point? It's happening right now." You have to come to that realization yourself, and I think this is especially difficult for people with learning differences. When do you shed off that stuff that you *have* to do?

I think I've spent a long time feeling not so great about myself; there are self-esteem issues deeply embedded in working within other people's expectations. And if you are not doing what you really want to do, not playing to your strengths, then the validation you receive is completely external, and you never feel satisfied.

I'm still working through it. But I'm a studio art major now, though I might minor in history.

Living with dyslexia . . . it's hard. But from my experience, you have to own it. It's who I am. It's always going to be me. Understanding this is essential in order to be happy as a human being.



Why the Nation Needs a Strategic Language Reserve

By Michael Geisler

On November 1, 1941, a little over a month before Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II, the U.S. Army opened a secret facility in an abandoned airplane hangar at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. The purpose of this enterprise was to create a cadre of experts who could speak Japanese. After the war, the new language training center, now known as the Defense Language Institute, moved to Minnesota and eventually found a permanent home at the historic Presidio of Monterey.

In times of war, we always seem to remember the need for people to talk to other people in a language they can truly understand—their own. Unfortunately, without the threat of war, Americans—like the former president of Harvard and former secretary of the treasury Larry Summers—seem to believe that foreign languages are a waste of time and resources because the rest of the world, if they want to talk to us, can be expected to do so in English.

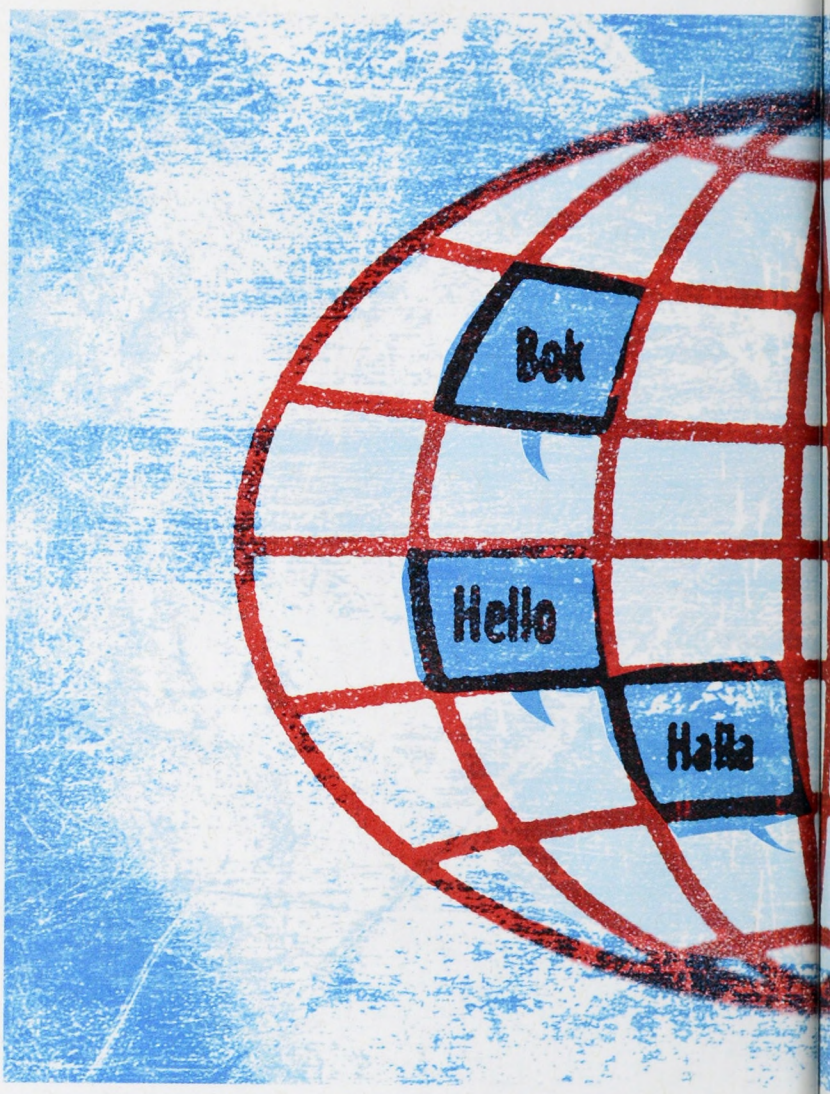
Yet even people who realize that the overwhelming majority of the world's population does not speak English, and that even those who do speak English can often communicate in that language only on a very basic level of proficiency, add to the problem by joining the stampede for what I like to call "the critical language du jour." The people who jump on these particular bandwagons seem to be unaware of the fact that their behavior is that of lemmings. In the 1960s and 1970s, following the Sputnik crisis of 1957, everybody was supposed to be learning Russian. In the 1990s there was a spike in Japanese (remember Michael Crichton's *Rising Sun* and all those courses on Japanese business ethics?) and German (following the fall of the Berlin Wall, when people were afraid of the rise of a "Fourth Reich"!).

While the Arabic School at Middlebury was established in 1982, on a national scale Arabic remained one of the "less commonly taught languages" until 9/11, when it suddenly seemed as if every single college student in America wanted to study Arabic. The same is true of Chinese: Whereas Middlebury established its Chinese summer Language School as early as 1966, the rest of the nation did not catch up until the late 1990s when it suddenly became obvious to everybody else that China was on its way to becoming a global powerhouse.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with people studying Arabic and Chinese. We desperately need proficient speakers in both languages. With less than 20 percent of Americans fluent in a second language (as compared to 50 percent in the European Union) we sorely need foreign language speakers to remain competitive in a global economy, for purposes of national security, and to participate in worldwide conversations about risks like climate change, global health and resources (food, water, energy), or migration.

The problem is that we need experts in *all the most important world languages*, not just the one or two "critical languages du jour." Just as we found ourselves catastrophically short of Arabic speakers after 9/11 (and, more importantly before 9/11!), who is to say that, in the wake of a resurgent Russia, we will not someday wish we had had more Russianists?

Currently, many people in the federal government and consequently many administrators of educational institutions seem to think that some of our traditional languages (except for Spanish) no longer matter. This includes French, German, Italian, and Russian. (It also includes Japanese, which, as recently as the 1990s, was very "hot.") There are about 110 million people in dozens of countries worldwide who speak French as their native language. About 100 million in central Europe speak German. It is also the most widely spoken second language in Europe, after English. Russian is spoken

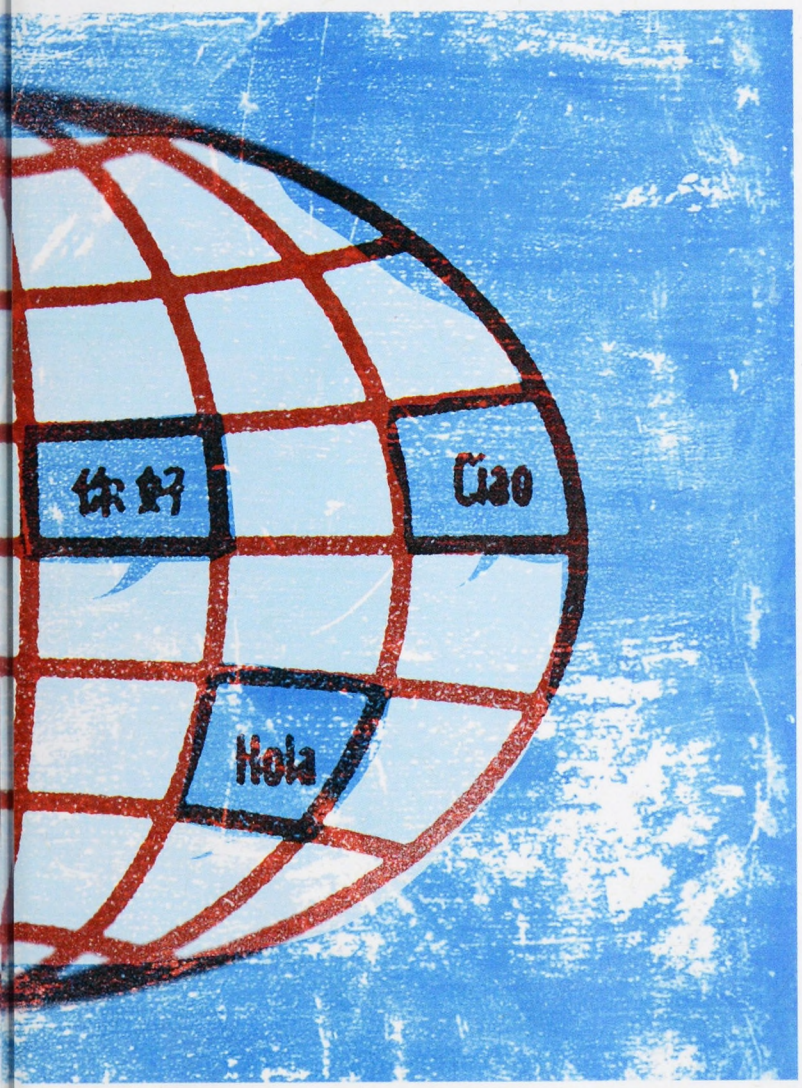


by some 160 million people—and, as *The Economist* noted some time ago, we are neglecting a country that remains one of the world's superpowers at our peril. Japanese is spoken by 125 million people; in 2012, Japan, with a GDP of U.S. $6 trillion, was still the world's third largest economy behind the United States and China, and ahead of Germany. Yet in the headlong race to throw all of our (dwindling) resources at the language spoken by the people we most fear at any given point in time, we are sending a powerful message to students and the public at large that languages matter only if we are at war with the people who speak them.

What we need is a strategic language reserve, a place, or better yet, many places, where the 10 or 20 most important world languages will always be taught, reliably, year after year, with cutting-edge pedagogy and technology in a setting that is immersive, contextualized, interactive, and high octane. There are only three or four places in the nation that do this, and among these, Middlebury has by far the longest tradition of excellence in immersion

But What about English?

By Matt Jennings



It is estimated that 375 million people around the world speak English as their first language; another 375 million, and possibly more, speak English as a second language. Beyond that, even more people speak English to some level of competence, as many as 25 percent of this planet's seven billion people.

And the demand for the other three-quarters is increasing. Why? "Because English is the language of business and commerce," says Renee Jourdenais, the dean of the Graduate School of Translation, Interpretation, and Language Education at the Monterey Institute. "If you are in China, and you want to do business with Russia or Japan or India, you need a common language, and English often serves as that language."

English is also the official language for maritime and aeronautical communications, for the United Nations, the International Olympic Committee; it is the primary or official language for nearly 100 countries around the globe. For those who can't speak English, they are at risk of being marginalized, a phenomenon taking place both far and near. Consider: An estimated one in four children in the United States are from immigrant families and live in households where a language other than English is spoken. As a result, in American schools, there is a significant learning gap between English-language learners and native English speakers.

Being able to teach English to nonnative speakers is of critical importance. Under Jourdenais's purview at MIIS are both the programs in intensive English and teaching English to speakers of other languages. (The former is for international students seeking to learn English; the latter trains people to teach English.) Here are some of Jourdenais's thoughts on the learning and teaching of English:

On the need for understanding English

There's the business and commerce equation, as I mentioned. English is increasingly seen as the *lingua franca* of the world. If you want to participate in the global economy, if you want to be globally literate, knowing how to speak and read English can maximize your possibilities. Likewise, if we look inwardly at our own country, the demographics of the United States are changing. The number of people who speak languages other than English is increasing. And English serves as a common language for U.S. residents as well. As such, there is a critical need in our country and our schools for teachers who can teach English to nonnative speakers—to help close a critical learning gap between those who come to school English-fluent and those who need to develop their English skills along with their academic knowledge.

On the teaching of English to nonnative speakers

Too often, people assume that if you can speak a language, if you are "fluent" in a language, then you can teach it. That's not entirely true. Those who want to teach English to speakers of other languages need to know why people need the language and how they acquire it. These potential teachers need a sound linguistic foundation—they have to understand linguistic theory, the structures of language, and theories of how languages are learned. And then there is language pedagogy—how best to teach languages and engage students in their learning experience. These teachers also need to be prepared to teach students who come from different backgrounds with different ways of learning. All of this is so important—these teachers are giving their students a voice in the world. M

language education. As Middlebury's Language Schools approach our centennial in 2015, we should remember that, except for the German School between 1917 (consider the date!) and 1931, Middlebury has never closed a Language School. This means that Middlebury is one place in the nation where, for a hundred years, students have been able to come and study a particular language in one summer, and then return to study some more one or two or many years later. We now teach 10 languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. And we expect to teach these languages (and others we hope to add) a decade from now and, barring unforeseen disasters, many years into the future. If this country is to remain competitive, secure, and a leader on issues of global import, it will be critical for us to speak the world's languages. M

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By Sierra Crane-Murdoch '09, *Photography by Ron Seymour*

By All Appearances

Dwayne Nash '99 was once part of the legal institution he now seeks to reform.

The morning was like any other. It was late February, and Dwayne Nash '99 woke in a brownstone on Manhattan Avenue, in New York City's Precinct 28, where Malcolm X once demanded custody of a black man the police beat nearly to death. That was before the riots, before crack hit hard and the War on Drugs took the dealers and doers to prison, and Harlem became a nice, historical neighborhood with tree-lined streets and rents so high that Nash, a former criminal prosecutor, could hardly afford his own apartment. This morning, like every morning, Nash lay in bed and scrolled through headlines on his iPhone. One caught his eye—a neighborhood watchman had shot and killed an unarmed black kid in Sanford, Florida. Trayvon Martin had looked "suspicious," the watchman, George Zimmerman, said. Martin was on his way home with an iced tea and a bag of Skittles when Zimmerman called the police. By the time an officer arrived, the young man was dead. ¶

NASH HAD KNOWN HIS SHARE OF MURDERS, but this one particularly rattled him. Zimmerman had claimed he acted in self-defense, and the police let him go. "You have one person standing there with a gun, the other person dead. You have to give the body the benefit of the doubt," said Nash. Why didn't they? "I don't think the police were incompetent. I think they saw no value in Trayvon, in investigating any further. His blackness made his body less important."

Two weeks later, a reporter for the *Chronicle of Higher Education* met Nash in a coffee shop in Harlem. Nash, 35, is at first glance modish and circumspect; the reporter took note of his "Burberry tie" and "wing-tipped shoes." She wanted to know what he thought of the incident. Nash, a doctoral candidate at Northwestern University's black-studies program, was researching the history of stop-and-frisk, a police tactic popularized in the 1990s by former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani. His research is part of a growing body of work that equates the criminalization of today's minorities with the laws that once denied African Americans their basic rights. One-third of all black men in the United States are under the watch of the criminal justice system—in prison, on probation, on parole—the majority charged with drug possession and other nonviolent offenses. Statistically, a white person is more likely to use drugs than an African American. Scholars have known for a long time that the numbers don't add up and trace the disparity to the 1980s and the War on Drugs, when police raided dense, urban neighborhoods. But Nash's work traces the problem even further back, to the 1960s, when the Civil Rights Act passed and white Americans grasped at a new kind of racial control.

Nash chose his words carefully to the *Chronicle* reporter, at once gentle and emphatic: "Whether we are stopped, searched, arrested, or shot, it's all the same. We're being read as a threat, criminal, or suspicious at the very least. Instead of Trayvon Martin, it could have been me that was killed. I pray that a gun barrel is not pointed to my face for making an innocent gesture or for being in the wrong place at the wrong time because of my skin color. There was no right place for Trayvon. He was walking home in the rain, doing nothing wrong, and he was read as suspicious."

This past October, when I met Nash in Chicago, I asked him to reflect again on the incident. George Zimmerman, the watchman who shot Martin, had since been arrested and charged with second-degree murder. Nash was dissatisfied. "There is a long history of viewing the black body with criminal suspicion," he said. "That memory has been transmitted across generations and time—and across institutions, as well." In this case, said Nash, the real problem was not Zimmerman, nor even the cops, but Florida's stand-your-ground law, which gives the benefit of the doubt to anyone who claims they shot another in self-defense. "If you believe that Zimmerman was just one bad apple, just 'that racist,' then you miss the point," he said. "Zimmerman knew that he could draw from the law to protect himself. He knew he had greater rights than Trayvon. He did something wrong, but the legal institution made that possible."

EVERY WEEKDAY FOR FIVE YEARS, Nash rode the elevator to the sixth floor of 1 Hogan Place and walked half-a-block length down the dim, green hall to Trial Bureau 50. The walk was a source of pride; the door sergeant knew him by name, the marble was impeccably polished, the secretary, with whom he had attended high school, smiled only for him. The Manhattan District Attorney's Office rivals Los Angeles's in size, and Trial Bureau 50 has a reputation for producing the toughest prosecutors around. Its chief, Warren Murray, is a military man. "Each case we were to treat as if we were Spartan soldiers who would not be fooled by the Trojan horse," said Nash. In his first week as assistant district attorney, Nash was assigned 10 cases; in his second, he took on 20. "That was how our chief played with us. You never got comfortable. You were always in triage."

It was the small crimes at first—drugs, theft, third-degree assault. Soon, Nash was working in the Early Case Assessment Bureau, where he interviewed officers after a crime had been committed to see if he had grounds to prosecute the case. From time to time, he questioned the perpetrator. "I was always shocked to find that even after I would read them their right to remain silent, their right to an attorney, their right to know that anything they said could be used against them in court, they still wanted to tell me their story, even if it might hurt them." Once, a defendant requested that his wife speak with Nash. Nash agreed, thinking the wife may have been an accomplice. The three of them chatted for a while. "Eventually, I realized that the man just wanted his wife to witness him doing the right thing," said Nash. "He thought he was being an honest guy, giving himself up, and he wanted to make sure she'd still be there when he got out."

Even on the job, Nash expressed a playful sort of cool, a trait, perhaps, that drew the truth out of people. While most prosecutors left their office walls blank, he pinned his with photographs from his travels abroad. His fellow ADAs joked that Nash put more holes in his walls than the police shot through Amadou Diallo. One day, Nash went to trial in a salmon shirt and matching tie, though Murray had demanded that all prosecutors wear white shirts beneath their suit jackets. "I had to ask the chief a question, and he wouldn't respond," recalled Nash. "He stared at me like I was an alien. I was thinking, Is this question going to be answered? Then he said, 'What are you wearing?' I said, 'Chief, I wore pink because I'm feeling like a pink day.' He let me be."

Nash believes it was his skin color that ultimately lent him an advantage. Most of his fellow attorneys were white, while defendants, and even officers, were often black or Hispanic. "I think they would look at me and decide they felt comfortable telling me all kinds of things," he said. Nash became close with several officers; they came over to his house and talked about their kids. "I knew that an officer coming in would think, okay, he's probably a chill, normal guy. He's not going to bust my balls."

In spite of this, Nash was a relentless prosecutor and, especially at the beginning, maintained a reverence for the law that some of his colleagues thought he took too far. Once, he charged two teenagers with trespassing for having sex on the roof of an apartment building. "It was dangerous, and they weren't supposed to be there," he said. Another time, he charged a Ron Paul supporter for selling political playing cards outside the Republican National Convention without a permit. Nash does not doubt these decisions, but he does regret one particular case, in which an elderly woman was caught selling drugs not far from a school in Harlem. At the time, Nash lived beside the school and woke every morning to children's voices passing on the sidewalk below. In New York, selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a school earns a higher felony charge. Nash felt conflicted about this law. "There's a school within 1,000 feet of anyone selling drugs in Manhattan. Black people tend to live in dense areas. So it puts the ones caught up in a system of selling drugs at an unfair disadvantage." Still, Nash ordered the police officers to chart the distance with a measuring stick; it was 800 feet. "I wanted the jury to see that she had no respect for small children. And yet I still think that school zone law should be repealed. I charged something I didn't think should be on the books."

Eventually, Nash was assigned more difficult cases. He worked on the "smart stuff" like identity theft and, in his fourth year, prosecuted his first homicide. He didn't like rape or child molestation cases, which wore on him emotionally, nor did he consider himself very good in the domestic violence unit. "I always wanted to solve the marriage problem," he said, and admitted that he was more concerned with getting the victim to safety than with prosecuting the assailant. In most cases, defendants would plead guilty before the case went to trial, but Nash lived for the CSI moments. Every stand he took in front of a jury became a kind of performance: "Good morning ladies and gentleman of the jury," he'd begin. "I'd explain that this was called *voir dire.* It's French, to speak the truth. 'I want you to speak the truth to me. I know it's hard to judge another person, and if you don't want to do it, then we can excuse you. But if you believe the person is guilty beyond a doubt, then will you convict?' That was so natural to me, to look in their eyes."

It was only after Nash had served several years at the DA that he began to notice some troubling patterns. For every case that he prosecuted, he wrote a report recommending a charge and submitted it to his supervisors. He recalled a few cases involving white, educated defendants in which his supervisors recommended lessening the charge, but when the defendant was black, he said, they often approved of his recommendation. "Once I thought a defendant had done a very violent thing, but he only got a slap on the wrist. He was wealthy, in college, and drunk in the East Village on a Friday night," he said. White defendants, Nash found, were more likely to challenge a charge in court, while black defendants often pled guilty without a fight. He noticed, too, that black and Hispanic defendants, though most often charged with minor crimes, cycled frequently through the system.

At first, these observations puzzled Nash, who had never suspected his colleagues of racial bias. "Rarely in those five years did any officer say anything to me that made it apparent they were engaging in racial profiling," he said. Then, in 2005, one case made things clear. It was summertime, and a white woman was idling her car outside a housing project in Harlem. Police had watched two black men get out and go into the building. Suspecting that the three were involved in a drug deal, they approached the woman, who told them that she was waiting for her cousins. It was a dangerous neighborhood, they replied, and ordered her to leave. When the men emerged, the police searched and arrested them. "If you thought this woman was involved in the crime, then why would you let her go?" said Nash. "The only reason was her whiteness. They were not concerned that she could be trafficking or carrying drugs, but those two black men were already seen as criminals."

The police officers realized that in their system, blackness functioned as an asset: "You take a black body, and what you get is a payoff." A white body might put up a fight—the charges might not stick, the reward may not be as great. Statistically, blacks and Hispanics don't fare as well through the criminal justice system. Why? "Because they're poor. Because they have public attorneys who are overworked, burned out, or jaded." This made them more vulnerable.

Nash dismissed the case, but he had begun to think that the criminal justice system was broken beyond his fixing. How many similar cases had slipped quietly through, simply because the law enabled them to? Nash rarely suspected officers of racial profiling, he now realized, because officers weren't aware of what they were doing; in fact, they had been trained to do their job this way.

In 1993, when Rudy Giuliani was elected mayor of New York City, he hired William Bratton as his police commissioner. Bratton was a proponent of the broken windows theory, that stemming small crimes and acts of vandalism would ultimately prevent more serious crimes. Stop-and-frisk was one way that police enforced this model. With only an inkling of suspicion—the smallest crack in a window, for example—officers could stop a person on the street and search for contraband. It was, by all appearances, a racially neutral policy—unless one looks to the numbers. Every year since 2002, more than 80 percent of individuals stopped and frisked were black or Hispanic. In 2011, 9 percent of those stopped were arrested. Officers may not intend to target people of color, but they are hanging out in poor, black neighborhoods. Why? Nash knew that if an officer was looking to fill a quota, policing a dense area was more efficient, but he began to think, too, that black neighborhoods simply had less political capital. "If police were to take this to the suburbs, people would complain, politicians would respond to those complaints, and the police would be told to leave. That doesn't happen in these neighbor-

hoods. Their power and voice has not always been very great—certainly not great enough to stop mistreatment by the police."

It is a predicament nearly impossible to dig oneself out of. A third of America's prison inmates are black. "They're now second-class citizens," said Nash. "Once they're convicted of a felony, they lose their right to vote. They lose their rights to public assistance in housing. They can't rejoin their families if they live in housing projects, so there's a severing of family ties. It also makes them unmarketable for jobs. This is what we call social death. You cannot participate in the political system. Your voice means nothing."

In his fifth year as ADA, while prosecuting his final homicide, Nash studied for the GRE. In 2008, he enrolled at Northwestern University. When I asked what his colleagues thought of his leaving, he told me, "I think they thought I always acted more like a professor anyway."

On a warm day in late October, I followed Nash up the dim, vaulted staircase of Northwestern University's old library into a cloistered wing that held the archive. The first time he visited an archive was at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem. He didn't know what to do; he approached the archivist and said he was looking for articles on stop-and-frisk in the 1960s, but she told him that such a thing did not exist. "That's when I knew I was onto something," he said. Instead, he began with a box filed under "police misconduct." The archivist instructed that he stand facing her with the box at a perpendicular angle to his body and examine only one folder at once.

Now, in the Joseph Speer Beck Angling Collection Room, Nash inspected a box with similar precision. He laid a folder on the cold, wooden table and flipped its contents like the pages of a book. The articles, dated August 1968, concerned protests that had erupted at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Clashes with police had left many injured, and Nash was curious if anyone had complained about the brutality. He flipped quickly through the pages, pausing only once on a list of policemen who had been wounded: cut hand, bruised thigh, lacerated shin. It reminded Nash of the notes he took as a prosecutor, meticulously tallying each officer's injury.

He took another folder from the box, and now something caught his eye. It was a photograph of four black men, each shirtless, on their knees, facing a wall, and an officer pointing a gun at their backs. It looked like an execution, I said, and Nash laughed. "I'm sure it feels like that for them, but it's only one officer and he's stopped four people. He's just making sure there's no bodily harm to himself." Nash flipped the page, but I stopped him. Did the photograph bother him at all? He hesitated. Then he said, slowly, "I have a deep appreciation for the law. When I see this, I think, this is an indication of anarchy. This is a breakdown of power, of democracy." He took his iPhone from his pocket and, holding it with surgeon-steady hands, snapped a photograph of the page. "Yes, it's scary. I think, 'This could happen to me.' I am always afraid that as a black person, no matter where I've gone to school, no matter how I'm dressed, I could be singled out—subjected to humiliation and physical threat, or to the fear of being murdered."

How he carried himself was, no doubt, a material upwelling of his natural temperament, but it was also a method of survival. His nephews, who dress in hoodies and baggy jeans, tease Nash for wearing "young clothes," as though his conservative, childhood outfits had simply expanded along with him. Nash calls this style his "politics of respectability." In order to navigate a racial world, he told me, "There's a certain level of daily performance that you must engage in."

But wasn't changing one's appearance to avoid suspicion a kind oppression in itself? "Yes," he said, "but you have to make it through life. For me, survival is a form of resistance. When you're among friends and family and in a safe place, then you can resume being yourself. But when you're going from point A to point B, your main goal should be to survive."

Nash turned the page. There was a photograph of a Black Panther, a man holding a gun. "You see," said Nash, "it's all a performance. Here we see men in the Black Power movement performing their masculinity. It's like they're saying, 'We may be subjected to police terror, but we will not be afraid.' They have to show their power. It's how they resist." He returned the folder to its box.

"It's a daily performance, only the stage doesn't have walls."

In 1939, his great-grandmother, Cleo Johnson, moved the family from Georgia to a house on East 26th in Brooklyn. She opened a restaurant on Green Avenue and served fried fish and sometimes pork chops with gravy. Nash's mother, Brenda, grew up in the business and, at the age of five, was tasked with counting change for customers. She remembers the packed Friday nights and the smoky sting in her nose and eyes. But by 1977, the year she gave birth to Nash, the neighborhood had fallen into decline. Thieves killed the druggist on the corner, and months later, shot a man at a gas station across the street. Johnson closed the restaurant and returned south.

Thereafter, Nash spent his summers in Waycross, Georgia. He passed the time in a forest beside the house, imagining he was Indiana Jones, and when he grew bored, rode his bike around town, dropping in on elderly women he knew from church. On his great-grandmother's urging, he did their chores. You mop that floor, and you do it with perfection, she would tell him. "I didn't realize until much later that she was teaching me to be humble," he said. "And getting me out of the house so she could watch her soap operas." If he seemed at all listless, she would hand him a dictionary and tell him to memorize it. He didn't mind this; he liked how the sounds fit together.

Nash was shy as a child and spent much of his time alone. While the neighborhood kids played skelly in the street, melting wax into bottle caps that they flicked across a chalk grid, he preferred imagining new worlds in the backyard. His action figures never fought—they went to school, found jobs, bought houses; he bent their plastic forms to fit behind miniature desks. He was a devout student and walked to school each morning with the *New York Times* tucked beneath his arm. Sometimes, when his older brothers and their friends listened to loud music, Nash rose from his homework, knocked on their doors, and told them to quiet down. "Let them be," his mother would say. "I'd rather have them in the house than on the street." Once, Nash replied, "Well, don't bring the street into the house!" His mother told him to stop being like his father. Nash was in elementary school.

Frederick Nash was a quiet, stern man who spent much of his time in a study at the back of the house, building clocks and devising various entrepreneurial ventures. Nash generally feared his father, but he struggled with math and, on several occasions, having prayed first to God that he find the answer, went to his father for help. "He would always start with, 'Why can't you figure it out yourself?' " Nash recalled. "I hated when my father asked, 'Why?' He'd explain it to me and walk me through the steps. Then he'd say, 'Did you understand?' I was always afraid to say 'no,' so I said 'yes.' And I would start and mess up somewhere, and he would say, 'You told me that you understood. If you don't understand something then you must say so. Speak up for yourself. I'm not going to be here always to help you.' " Years later, Nash would realize that his father was, in fact, a gentle man. At night, he tucked his son in so tightly that Nash woke each morning still plastered to the bed.

In his mother's words, it was "a really good childhood," protected from—but not unconscious of—the world that dove and shifted around him. On Saturdays, Nash's grandfather, an artist, took him to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and on walking tours of the city's architecture. Sometimes, they would sit together on Green Avenue with his grandfather's "black, socialist friends." On Sunday mornings, his mother would tune the radio to gospel classics, and when they returned from church, Nash would join his father, a Muslim, in listening to Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, on the radio. Later, in high school, he devoured novels by James Baldwin. *Giovanni's Room* excited him for the "boundaries that it crossed"—a man was

in love with a man—before he knew that he would love a man, too.

Nash wonders, looking back, if the multiplicity of his upbringing shielded him from the harsh reality of what it meant to be young and black in America. His encounters with prejudice came in shades of black: a racial hierarchy within his community that denied darker-complected people access to social clubs. "We don't partake in that," his mother would say, but when it came to "white-on-black" prejudice, "It just wasn't part of my consciousness," said Nash. His childhood opened his eyes on the world but not so wide that he ever doubted that the things he aspired to were possible.

NASH WAS 22 WHEN HE BECAME FULLY CONSCIOUS of his own blackness. He had graduated from Middlebury and accepted a full scholarship at Boston College Law. Though Middlebury was "basically all white," and many of his black friends lamented the racial isolation, Nash said he rarely felt out of place; intellectually, he was more at home than he had ever been. Once, while taking a class in international negotiations, Nash decided to buy a used car. "Of course in Vermont, generally if they have a price you either pay or you don't," recalled his professor, Russell Leng '60. "Dwayne felt he had to negotiate. He applied all the rules he learned in class. It went on for weeks, until finally the guy said, 'Just take it.' Dwayne got his price and was very pleased." Middlebury was a safe, sheltered place where things generally went Nash's way. "I had a rich sense of who I was and where I'd come from," he said. "It couldn't be shattered so easily."

In his first year of law school he met Naomi Shelton from Dorchester, Massachusetts. She was one of four black students in their 75-person cohort and charmed him with her brassy, Boston accent. That fall, Nash convinced Shelton to compete with him in a moot court tournament. They won. Nash saw the results first and ran to tell Naomi, but when they returned to the board, someone had crossed out their names. "We laughed," recalled Nash. "We said, 'We must have really kicked some ass, because someone is bitter!'" But when they went to claim their award, they were told they hadn't won at all. "Naomi thought that this had something to do with our race. She said, 'We're in Boston. This happens all the time.' I wasn't ready to accept that, and I didn't. But that moment of seeing the situation through Naomi's eyes created a consciousness in me."

Nash never found out what had happened—he didn't want to press it—but he began to notice some peculiar things. Every night when he left campus, a police officer would follow him home and idle in the street until Nash had parked his car. Then, one day, on a drive to the public library, he pulled onto the roadside to ask directions from a pedestrian. She was a petite, middle-aged woman. "Excuse me, Miss," he said, getting out of the car. She turned and when she saw him, yelled, "Please, don't!" A man intervened. "Leave her alone," he told Nash, "or it will get really ugly." Nash tried to explain that he was looking for the library. "I had this burning sensation in my stomach. It hit me that maybe Naomi was right. Maybe it was a racist joke that caused us to disappear from the ranking. Maybe it was strange that this officer followed me home every night. And maybe it was strange that I had this encounter. I had a false sense of consciousness, and I realized that put me in danger. It put me in emotional danger, too."

Through all of this, Nash knew that despite the color of his skin, he had certain advantages: He was well educated, and he placed great value in the fact that his family, unlike most, was still intact. This, too, would change. In 2000, Nash had just returned to New York from Belgium when he called his mother from the airport. She told him that his brother would pick him up, and she wouldn't be there when he got home. "I said, 'Oh, where are you?' She said, 'It's a long story.' Then, 'I'm leaving your father.' " Nash can't remember what happened next. When he came to, he was at an airport bar. A woman told him that she had to go, but everything would be okay.

THERE WAS THE SADNESS of knowing that when he returned home, his house would feel strange and empty. But much deeper inside Nash, from a place he could not quite explain, there was also a fear that the divorce had somehow "shattered our family's social respectability." Looking back, Nash recognizes this fear was unfounded. Most of his friends, white and black, had divorced parents. Nor could the separation undo all that had shaped him. His mother seemed content; he grew closer to his father, who, when Nash came out as gay, appeared quite happy for his son. His parents still talked every day. His family, he knew, was far from "broken," and yet, at the time, he felt that the very stereotypes that had enabled society to devalue black communities were closing in around him. "The single mother, the absent father, that this explains all of our social ills—I didn't want that baggage. It's not what I grew up with, and, at first, the divorce seemed to suggest all that.

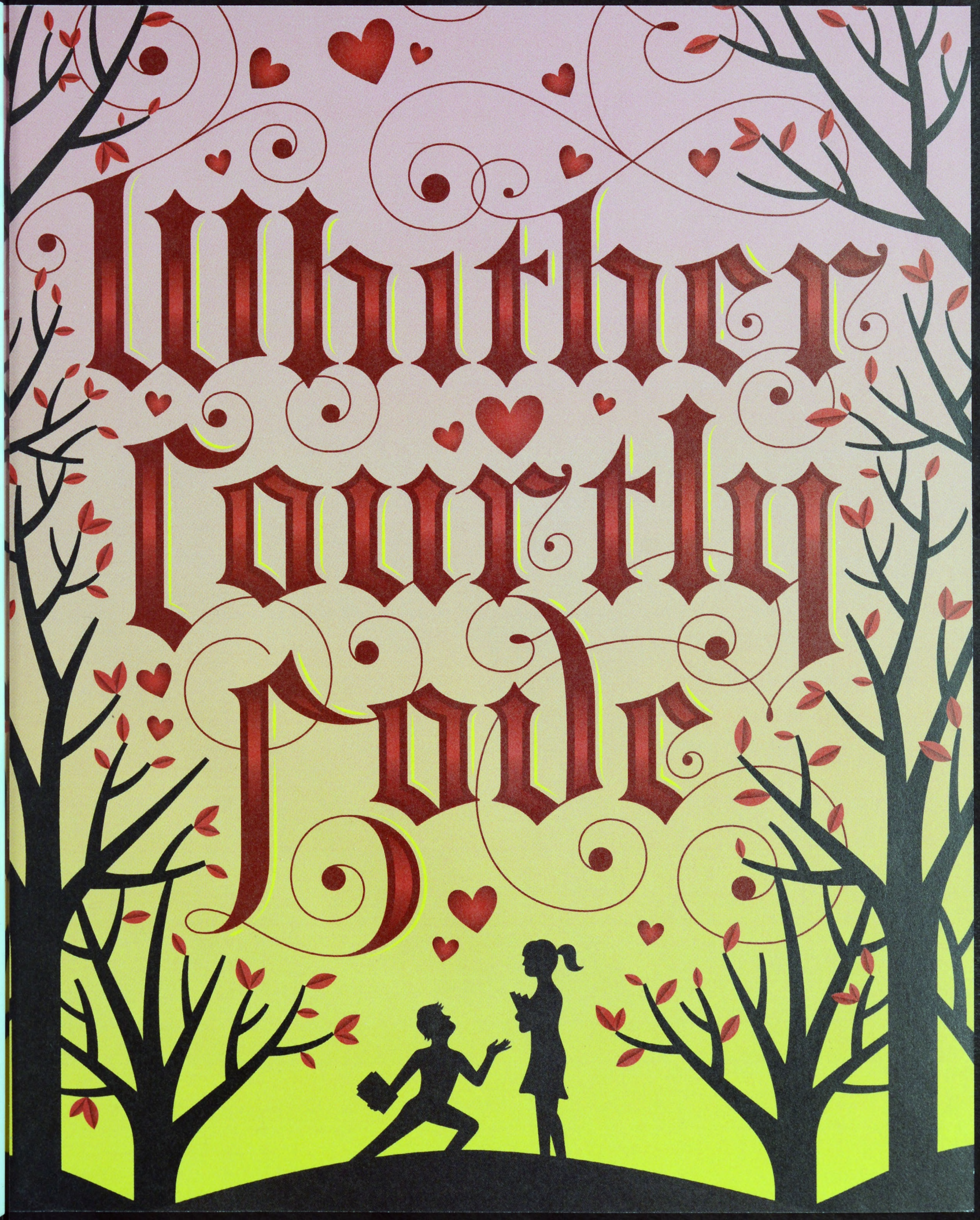
"You may say, 'That's silly, what difference does it make?' But in the black communities, there is a concept called 'linked fate,' that says we must remember that we're all one, that we carry the weight of the race on our shoulders. The positive things that we do benefit us all, and the negative things could throw us back. Some people think that way and some people don't. But I live it every day. That's why I do this work, and I'm comfortable being a soldier in the struggle."

One night last spring, not long after Trayvon Martin had been shot, Nash was walking home in Brooklyn when he came across two officers on a street corner. He rarely saw police in the neighborhood; by then it had gentrified, each house worth millions. "I saw them standing there, and I wasn't going to go around them, so I went between them," said Nash. He made it nearly to the other end of the street before the officers called after him. "Excuse me, sir," they said, "is that alcohol in your bottle?" Earlier that day, he had bought spring water and saved the blue glass to use as decoration. "I knew I hadn't committed a crime," said Nash, and so he continued on his way. The officers followed. As Nash drew closer to his house, the street darkened, and he grew suddenly afraid. *What was it worth?* he thought. After all, he was still a black man. He turned to face the officers. "Look, it's nothing," he said, and to himself he thought, *Resist! Resist! Save myself to fight another day.*

Sierra Crane-Murdoch '09 is a writer based in Missoula, Montana.

By Meghan Laslocky '89
Illustration by Jessica Hische

When I was an English major at Middlebury back in the eighties, courtly love was my cod liver oil: dosages were the mandatory price I paid for the lovely beef stew of *Middlemarch* and the meringue of *Pride and Prejudice.* It was key to Chaucer's *Knight's Tale*, in which two suitors duke it out to win the love of fair Emily, and Spenser's deadly boring *Faerie Queene*, and even in Shakespeare, my bugaboo was unavoidable: the romantic fealty of courtly love is captured in Sonnet 18 (*Shall I compare thee to a summer's day...*), and its vanilla rituals mocked in *Much Ado About Nothing* and *As You Like It*. Even when it was the subject of satire, courtly love spawned my biggest, baddest internal eye roll. Once I had my diploma in my 22-year-old hand, I was sure that with respect to the canoodling of knights and ladies, I'd never look back.


Another
Courtly
Code

And like any court, and any small school, Middlebury had its own culture. What strikes me now is that a key component of that culture was this: love wasn't cool.

But then I wound up writing an entire book about the social and cultural history of heartbreak, and no matter how sturdy my decades-long resistance to courtly love was, ignoring it in my book would have been downright negligent. After all, at least in the beginning stages of the courtly romance formula, heartbreak was codified: a knight attempts to attract a married noble lady's attention via stolen glances; then he circles said lady like a shark, perhaps by attending court just a little too often; then he declares "I love you," perhaps from behind a curtain or in a dark corner; the lady replies, "No, no, no! I'm so very married and so very devout!" and focuses on her needlepoint; the knight says he just might die if his lady doesn't return his love; then the knight moons around court bemoaning how the lady doesn't love him back.

Only when the knight takes a dramatic risk is the spell of unrequitedness broken: he might get his hot little hands on a ribbon from the lady, tie it to his lance, and proceed to win a jousting tournament (with bonus points for any injuries sustained). Only then might she give in and reward him with kisses and/or sex, and from there they might sneak about for a little clandestine codpiece 'n' corset action. The nobility of courtly love, of the heartbreak, was in the attenuated longing, and consummation between the lovelorn knight and his lady was *theoretically* verboten. If the relationship was consummated, the thrill of the chase was replaced by the thrill of evading detection.

No doubt part of the reason why I found courtly love so irksome lay in the fact that it was so at odds with what I was experiencing as a young woman at Middlebury in the eighties—or thought I was experiencing. Among my peers/friends, romance and its close associate, eroticism, were certainly not celebrated. (The terms I recall for sexual encounters were "hooking up," "muckling," and most memorably, if repeated encounters were the case, "dealing.") In my own personal experience, the only thing that sex and romance at Middlebury had in common with courtly love was that it was furtive: the closest thing I had to a relationship in college was a guy I'd hook up with—FOR THREE YEARS!—but we couldn't hack breakfast together in Proctor, much less meet up to see a Hitchcock movie at Dana Auditorium. It makes sense then that my muckling self, sitting there in the second row of a classroom in Munroe, *Faerie Queen* open, was perplexed by the idea of an entire subculture devoted to mooning around for love.

But then, nearly 25 years later, I found myself fascinated by the academic debates that have, for decades now, framed discussions about courtly love. What was it exactly? A real phenomenon, a literary device, or a little of both? Among those who believe that knights really did hotly pursue married women, the phenomenon is thought to have been more or less natural adaptation: in a milieu where marriages among the upper classes were arranged and loveless, courtly love was a neat ruse that covered, justified, or perhaps even celebrated adultery. Some who have studied it have gone so far as to suggest that the spread of courtly love across Europe from the 12th century onward marked a sexual revolution in which women radically turned the tables on men. Others are quick to point out that there is really no evidence whatsoever that courtly love existed anywhere but on paper and in song: no legal cases, no chronicles, no correspondence. It has even been suggested that many depictions of courtly love in medieval literature were more or less ironic jokes, just as they were in Shakespeare several hundred years later.

Initially, as I absorbed the fact that courtly love has no smoking gun, I felt vindicated: my 20-year-old self was wise beyond her years. She knew courtly love was bogus. It was as absurd as, in today's world, a midlevel manager professing undying love for the CEO's wife, sailing into tough meetings with her Hermes scarf wrapped around his arm, and then crying to the crowd around the water cooler about how she doesn't love him back.

But the nagging questions about it also got me thinking about love at Middlebury in the eighties—about what was, what wasn't, and what might have been. Naturally this line of thinking got me rummaging around in what I think of as my Middlebury closet, pushing past my cynicism to the painful box of regrets/box of pain, but it also got me going drawing comparisons between the upper echelons of the medieval world and, yes, Middlebury. Think about it: like a royal court, Middlebury is elite, packed with smart and attractive people; like a court, it is physically isolated from the rest of the world; and like a court, it has its cliques and pecking orders. It is a castle on a hill.

And, like any court, and any small school, Middlebury also had its own culture. What strikes me now is that a key component of that culture was this: love wasn't cool. "Hooking up" was cool, walks of shame were cool, but unabashed love, as in shouting to the hills that are his also, that you were madly in love? Not so much. Sure, there were the rare couples who were in love and wore their hearts on their Patagonia sleeves, but those were the exception, not the rule. The way I see it, never in the history of man has there been a group of 18–21-year-olds quite so determined to *not be in love.*

I'm sure this had something to do with the fact that for four years, we were in essence at an endless banquet: you could pick and choose among countless smart, attractive, and more-or-less like-minded individuals to spend your time with. Indeed, you could have a crush in every dining hall to keep you entertained. The rock climber who ate with his friends in the SDUs; the lacrosse player in Proctor who you hooked up with freshman year; the moody poet in Lower Proctor. I also think the collective resistance to love originated in naiveté: little did we know just how precious that time in the castle on the hill was, and weak was our understanding that never again would we share such intimate space with so many interesting people the same age. So the saying goes, youth is wasted on the young.

But I've talked to a few close friends from Middlebury about this, and we all agree that there was more to it than that. At Middlebury then, and perhaps now, tribalism was fierce. Perhaps the lack of love at Middlebury also had something to do with fear of crossing social boundaries, of being associated with someone who, even within the coziness of Middlebury, was "other." Love wasn't in the air, but following the rules was. And foremost in that pack of rules was this: "Thou shalt not profess undying love."

I'm in my mid-forties now, and perhaps unduly preoccupied in my research on love by *what was, what wasn't, and what might have been.* I regret that I didn't have the confidence and steeliness to tell the boys I loved—and yes, there were a few—how I felt, and I regret dismissing the ones who were bold, and yes! *wise* enough to at least hint that they loved me. Love wasn't in the air, and yet it was all around us. The flickers deserved to be fed.

And as for courtly love, the trappings of adoration, confession, and persistence, and my now-ancient distaste for them? Now I know that the line between scorn and envy is a thin one. Love isn't just loving, it's letting oneself be loved. M

Meghan Laslocky '89 is the author of The Little Book of Heartbreak: Love Gone Wrong through the Ages, *Plume/Penguin 2013.*

Class Acts

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In a photo taken for the *Saturday Evening Post*, students pose before going on the 1947 Winter Carnival sleigh ride.

PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

By Kathryn Flagg '08

The Interpreter

Htar Htar Yu '08 spent her early years in the jungles of Burma, the daughter of political rebels waging guerrilla warfare against the military regime that since 1962 has ruled the country now known as Myanmar. It was a dangerous childhood, punctuated by ambushes and flights through the jungle. ¶ And yet for Yu, that tumultuous early childhood was soon eclipsed by her own drive to earn an education, which led her from the refugee villages of the Burmese border to the streets of Thailand—and then, of all places, to Vermont. Now she's helping Burmese refugees, who number roughly 250 in the Burlington area, navigate a similar transition. As an interpreter with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, she's the voice of a growing number of refugees in the region struggling to acclimate in the same place that Yu, 28, has made her new home.

"They have language barriers, cultural barriers, economic barriers," she says. "Everything is new to them, from dialing phones to using bathrooms to using stoves. But they're very adaptive and very quick learners."

Yu's journey to Vermont began in earnest in 1991, when, after years of brutal fighting, the Tavoyan ethnic army in which her father fought could no longer resist Burma's military. Her family retreated to a refugee camp on the Thai-Burmese border, where for the first time Yu, then eight, attended school. Four years later she left her family to continue her education in a neighboring camp, and she's been independent ever since.

Her family sneaked into Thailand a few years later amid growing fears that Yu's father might be a target for assassination. Yu followed and in Thailand learned English at a school funded by philanthropist George Soros. Soon she struck up a friendship with a young Vermonter who suggested Yu—who'd only completed formal schooling through the seventh grade—consider spending a year as an exchange student in the United States.

She landed in Barre, Vermont, and was initially baffled by the helpfulness of her teachers, host family, and community. "I felt that I was dropped into this wonderful land," she said. It was in Barre that she heard about Middlebury College, and she drafted her application after returning to Thailand the following August. Yu matriculated in 2004 at nearly 22 years old, and went on to study sociology and anthropology with a minor in gender studies.

It turned out that at the same time Yu was finishing her degree, the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program was introducing the first wave of Burmese refugees to the region. The program's director, Judy Scott, paid Yu a visit in 2008 and told the young woman that the resettlement program was desperate for a Burmese language interpreter.

In the years since, Yu has attended the births of 14 Burmese children born in Vermont. She's accompanied refugees to countless medical appointments, court dates, and school meetings. It can be a difficult job, particularly when she's called upon to translate bad news. "Whatever the good news or the bad news or the angry news or the uncomfortable news, as close as I can, I'm supposed to convey the message," says Yu. And her work stretches beyond the stuff of language: In 99 percent of cases, she estimates, she finds herself called upon to dole out advice as well.

"She has been the great forerunner in learning about American society and American culture," says Scott, who praises Yu for her tireless involvement in Vermont's Burmese community. "She's already done the hardest work of being plopped alone in Vermont and having to figure out how to adjust while at the same time determining how to remain true to her own personality, to her forbears, to her heritage." In the process of guiding new refugees through similar transitions, Yu has become a fierce advocate of education, urging the Burmese in Vermont to go to school, to obtain their degrees, and to encourage their own children in schoolwork.

She finds herself wondering about the ramifications of imposing new values on these families, but says ultimately she can only draw conclusions from her own life.

"At some point we have to choose. My message to them is, you should adapt. That doesn't mean you have to forget your past life or your culture, but at least you'll be able to function here." M

Kathryn Flagg '08 is a staff writer for Seven Days *newspaper. She lives in Shoreham, Vermont.*

PARALLELS

WALL OF REFUGEE ART

"Volunteers from all parts of Vermont contribute to the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program. The photos on the wall behind me were taken by volunteers on World Refugee Day and each piece of art was created by refugee children here in Vermont. Bringing our differences together, we shape and create a piece of art that represents a foundation for our world, where mankind's social, political, and economic cultures exist at one adjustable level."

SOUL OF BURMA

The leading pro-democracy opposition leader in Burma, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was elected to the Parliament in a landslide victory in April 2012. Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, she spent most of the past two decades under detention. "She is a freedom and democracy fighter. She is the soul of Burma and the world. I admire her from my heart and soul."

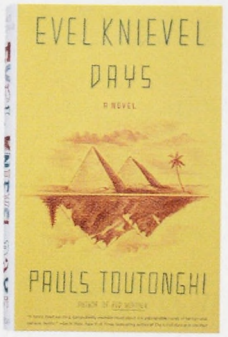
EARLY EDUCATION

"In the jungle we didn't have schooling. When I came to the refugee camp, I got enrolled in official school—it was second grade back then. We wore uniforms, white top and blue skirt, and I was good at school. Walking to school from home through the middle of the camp, for a kid who was almost nine, it was quite grand to me."

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRETT SIMISON

BOOK REVIEW

Risky Business



What do you do when you never knew your father, and then one day he comes to town—and leaves again without a word?

By Regan Eberhart

Pauls Toutonghi '98 has written a novel that makes you happy. It presents a cheerful, thoughtful outlook on the world as it traces a young man's tumultuous leap into independent adulthood. Khosi Saqr is 23 years old and lives with his mother in Butte, Montana. He's the type of son most mothers would adore—devoted, kind-hearted, likes his mom—even takes care of her a bit. When she does crazy things, such as suddenly hauling him out of bed to help her dig up the Egyptian walking onions that have been overgrowing her garden for years, or to taste her cooking so she can adjust the seasoning, he complies with the calm patience that comes from having a close bond.

It's just been Khosi and his mom since he was three, when his Egyptian father deserted the family, leaving behind his "foods and traditions, a hundred thousand dollars in gambling debts, and a three-year-old boy as copper as a penny." This desertion has haunted them both ever since. Khosi thinks of his father as a "mockery," a "hidden galaxy," an "empty suitcase." And, Khosi, with his dark skin and foreign-sounding name, struggles to fit in in Butte. His mother, the great-great-granddaughter of a mining magnate who amassed a fortune in the copper mines, continued to cook her husband's recipes after he left, becoming a master of Middle Eastern cuisine. The recipes she prepares weave throughout the story with a sensory force that seems to link the past and present—her *mulukhiyya* "fills the air with the smell of garlic and onion and boiling jute leaves and sizzling olive oil."

Khosi is a compelling character because of his objective, open-minded way of seeing the world. His unvarnished observations of the people and town he lives in are made without a hint of reproach. They just are. This includes his observations of himself. He describes his obsessive-compulsive nature with acceptance: "I had a few small tasks I had to complete before I could begin my day. It's not that I had a problem; I was totally normal. It's simply that I needed to arrange the

ILLUSTRATION BY MARTIN HAAKE

covers of the bed at a certain angle, with six inches of white folded back above the top sheet. And then I had to touch all four walls of the room—north, south, east, west." He continues with an involved list of things he must do and concludes, "Some might call this obsessive-compulsive. I'd call it a friendly (gentle) attention to detail."

Khosi's evolution begins when Butte's annual stunt-jumping festival, Evel Knievel Days, is underway. (Evel Knievel, the town's "favorite son," was born in Butte.) Motorcyclists, visitors, and stuntmen of all types descend on the city, and Khosi learns that his father has just paid a clandestine visit to town and left again. This sets Khosi off on a daring adventure of his own—to find his father in Cairo, with no contact information and with limited Arabic skills.

As it turns out, it is surprisingly easy for Khosi to locate his father, but connecting with his Egyptian family is much harder. After experiencing some near tragedies (and some near miraculous rescues), Khosi discovers the answers he has been longing for and finds his roots.

Evel Knievel Days is not only charming and witty, its nuanced, optimistic outlook is as welcome as a meal cooked by Khosi's mother. M

EXCERPT

What's it like to be the child of an immigrant? I know and I don't know, both. I have a family tree somewhere, but I don't know where, and it's probably in Arabic, or possibly French, or possibly both. The past, the history of my family, is a strange and hybrid beast. On the one side: exhaustively documented. I live and work in its midst. But on the other side: nothing. No body, no clothes, no cane, no toupee, no set of dentures, no artifacts whatsoever. Only a vocabulary that vanishes as soon as it's fashioned into language. Only the vocabulary of exile and disappearance.

Circling Back

By Blair Kloman, MA English '94

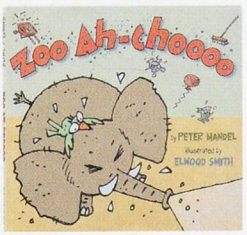
They may have started small on this Vermont campus back in the late '90s, but for Brad Corrigan '96, Chad Urmston '98, and Pete Heimbold '99, their talent and hard work took them far.

Better known as the band Dispatch, the three college friends went on to become one of the most successful indie bands of their day. After a fast-paced run of energetic live performances and a string of recordings, the band went separate ways in 2002. Though the three stayed somewhat connected, reuniting for fund-raising events in the mid-2000s, it wasn't until last year that Dispatch made an official reunion tour. *Circles Around the Sun* is the band's full-length culmination of that tour, as well as its first new release in more than a decade.

Fans will be delighted to find that the band's characteristic harmonies are still there, yet newly evolved. Their reggae roots have a more polished edge, and their lyrical intensity suggests an expected maturity. Explosive guitar riffs are balanced with thematic melodies and even a catchy tune or two. The final track offers up a playful reprise for those willing to listen in a little longer.

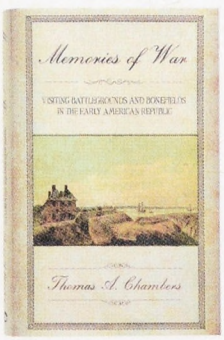
No doubt the live interpretations of this latest release will make for some excellent venue listening as the band continues to tour and do what it does best. And many fans may be left hoping that this isn't just another reunion album but perhaps the next iteration of a beloved band. M

EDITORS' PICKS

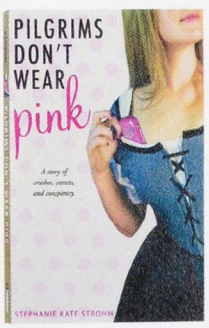


PETER MANDEL
Zoo Ah-choooo
(Holiday House)
What starts innocently enough with a snow leopard sneeze turns suddenly into zoo-wide cacophony. Another delightful picture book from Peter Mandel '79.

AMANDA NISBET
Dazzling Design
(Stewart, Tabori & Chang)
Photographs of elegant yet playful interiors fill the pages of this colorful book about the projects Amanda Travers Nisbet '86 has designed over the years.



THOMAS A. CHAMBERS
Memories of War
(Cornell University Press)
Although American battlefields are endemic to our national identity, most Revolutionary War sites remained unmarked for years. Thomas Chambers '91 examines the development of battleground memorials between 1755 and 1860.



STEPHANIE KATE STROHM
Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink
(Graphia)
History, humor, and romance (and perhaps a ghost?) mix intriguingly in this engaging young adult debut novel by Stephanie Kate Strohm '08, the first of a trilogy.

ClassActs

Directors of the Middlebury College Alumni Association (MCAA) Suzanne K. Daley '96, President • Robert V. Sideli '77, Vice President • Zachary A. Bourque '01, Past President • Victoria M. Baptiste '04 • Laura L. Bozarth '92, MIIS '94 • Molly Shuttleworth Evans '96 • Matt J. Goebel '94 • Richard A. Hawley '67 • Phyllis Wendell Mackey '78 • Philip B. Picotte '08 • Edward Y. Soh '94 • Andre Berot Spring '88 • Thomas D. Steinle '84 • Wendy Russell Tracy '95 • Gregory D. Woodworth '81 ***Ex Officio*** Meg Storey Groves '85, Associate Vice President for Alumni Relations and Annual Giving • Ann Einsiedler Crumb '71, Associate Vice President for College Advancement • Elizabeth Karnes Keefe, Assistant Dean of Language Schools and Schools Abroad • Susan Regier, Director of Annual Giving

30

A WWII Air Force veteran, **Conwell "Deke" Abbott** was honored in October on his 103rd birthday as the oldest resident at the New Hampshire Veterans Home. Gov. John Lynch attended the party and brought him an official commendation. Deke says he's proud of having served his country in Europe in WWII. Records show that he is also the oldest Middlebury alum!

34

In September a celebration was held on the Bristol, Vt., town green in honor of three residents turning 100, including **Gertrude Hewitt Lathrop**. While at Middlebury, French was her favorite subject and she enjoyed living in the Château. After college she taught in a rural schoolhouse in Schaghticoke, N.Y., saved up her money, and traveled to France on a steamboat in 1937. She eventually ended up back in Bristol with her husband and six children and lives in the house she was born in.

35

I send my best wishes to my classmates!
—Class Correspondent: Alma Davis Struble, 147 West State St., Room 208, Kennett Square, PA 19348.

37

We received the following message from the family of **Harriet Coley Lins**: "Regretfully Harriet passed away on May 25, 13 days after her 96th birthday, in Woodbridge, Va. She was able to celebrate her 96th with her immediate family, including her son, granddaughter, grandson, great-granddaughter, and great-grandson." At Middlebury she played baseball and basketball, was on the Frosh Frolic and Sophomore Hop committees, was a Kappa Kappa Gamma, was an associate editor of the *Handbook,* and was on the news staff and was an assistant editor on the *Campus.*
—Class Correspondent: Marshall Sewell, 20 Morning Glory Ln., Whiting, NJ 08759.

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REUNION CLASS Once again I shall remind you that if there is no news sent to me you will only learn about **Eleanor Barnum Gardner**, **Janet Randall Morgan**, or me. Eleanor and Janet are two I am in touch with often. In talking with Janet in August, she was anticipating a week's vacation at Quonochontaug, R.I., which is where she lived before moving to Cedar Mountain Commons. She was looking forward to many walks on the beach and enjoying watching the waves. • Also in August I had the pleasure of visiting my daughter Lynne and husband David for several days. They have a business called Standing Stone Perennial Farm in Royalton, Vt. • On Saturday, August 18, we here at Wake Robin had the opportunity to see and have a ride in antique cars. There were about 20 cars of many makes and models, mostly touring cars plus a few convertibles. Some of the drivers took residents through Shelburne Farms. The passengers enjoyed waving to people in the village and hearing lots of cheering. We were also entertained by a fabulous barbershop quartet. In the afternoon everyone was treated to ice cream served on the porch of the community center. • If you have access to a computer, go to blogs.middlebury.edu/middmag/2012/09/12/still-in-the-game/. You'll see an article about some alumni who are doing amazing things, including our own runner, **Bob Matteson**!
—Class Correspondent: Mrs. Charles M. Hall (Margaret Leslie), 100 Wake Robin Dr., Shelburne, VT 05482.

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Helen Brewer Chadwick writes that her four years at Middlebury were some of her best ones. She made lasting friendships with classmates, going on trips with some of them for many years. • **Irene Fernandez Anderson** has kept busy since the death of her husband three years ago. He was a Marine and reached the rank of major general. Now she is busy with bridge, spite and malice (a card game), and bible class. She is an avid reader and enjoys discussing books with friends. For years she played golf three or four times a week. I (**Roger**) have found that you should not give up golf when you age unless it is really necessary. Ultimately you will be able to shoot your age. I am 93 and can shoot that. When I was 70 years old I could not shoot my age. I presume this is one of the benefits of aging. • I chatted with **Joseph Foley**, who is a retired physician-radiologist. I urged him to attend our next class reunion. • Greta Adams sent a letter on behalf of her father, **Edward Grosenbeck**. She writes, "Dad has been retired from his job as school superintendent of Fort Ann Central School in upstate New York for 34 years. In 1967 he bought property in Pittsford, Vt., to be closer to Killington, his favorite ski area. When he retired in 1978, he moved there permanently and is still living in his own home. He sees his children and grandchildren regularly. He enjoys playing his electric keyboard and spends hours at it. He is a member of the Proctor-Pittsford Country Club and plays golf quite often when the weather is nice. He uses a golf cart now and says the exercise these days is getting in and out of it! Dad has a lot of fond memories of his Middlebury days. He played in a band back then to help pay college expenses and really enjoyed it. He talks about driving across the ice on Lake Champlain to get to gigs in New York during the winter. Thanks to Middlebury College, a kid from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., fell in love with Vermont and his heart is still there." • I am making two trips to Seattle, Wash., as two of my grandchildren are getting married there. My daughter lives there and is a law school professor.
—Class Correspondent: A. Roger Clarke (arogerclarke@aol.com), 7 Rundel Park, Rochester, NY 14607.

40

RC Anderson received a letter from **Martha Taylor Elliott**, who says she found the note about **Ken Quackenbush** in the fall issue very interesting. She also mentioned that her late husband, Leete '38, had put together volumes of family correspondence, including that which took place during WWII. She may share some of it in this column. She recounted her memory of sitting next to RC's wife at Bread Loaf during a reunion, which brought this reply from RC: "Your mention of Bread Loaf stirs up memories. I worked there the summers of 1938–1940 as the salad chef in the kitchen for the summer school and Writers' Conference. My pay was $20 a month and I had every other Sunday supper off (providing I set up the ingredients beforehand). I got to see Robert Frost at a distance and had indirect contact with him. At dinner early in the Conference week, he loudly declared that he wanted his salad dressing made with lemon juice rather than vinegar (no matter that it was a vinaigrette). I complied, of course, but it was just another burden to be met." RC also told the story of how, in 1938, W. Storrs Lee '28, college editor at the time, sent him out on foot to take motion pictures of the effect on East Middlebury of the notorious hurricane of that year. "The main street past the Waybury Inn was a torrent carrying cars and debris. I watched as two men, at their peril, set a dynamite charge at the bridge blocking the river. It blew and the river returned to its course, though still at flood stage. Walking to East Middlebury was not unusual for me since I occasionally would walk from Middlebury through Ripton to work at Bread Loaf, once arriving at dawn when my kitchen duties usually began."

41

Correspondent **Margaret Shaub** reports: **Wilton "Bud" Covey** volunteers at Elderly Services in Middlebury, a community organization that sends 11 buses out around the county to bring in people for meals and entertainment. Two of his grandchildren also volunteer there during the summer. When not volunteering he keeps busy around the house and lawn, weather permitting. He and his wife recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary. Congratulations, Bud! • **Jean Connor** attended several open-to-the-public events at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference last August. She says, "Best of all was a talk by John Elder on Robert Frost, given outdoors on the lawn at Frost's writing cabin

in Ripton. It was fun to get inside the small cabin and see the spectacular view he had of pasture and mountains, a place to inspire poetry." • **David Hammond** reported he was walking with a walker but hoped it was only temporary. Otherwise, he feels great. Kidneys are doing better. His daughter lives with him, but he has a caretaker during the day. He attends church regularly and takes PT two or three times a week. • Correspondent **Elizabeth Wolfington Hubbard-Ovens**, along with her husband, continues to enjoy life at their retirement community, where life is enhanced by a lively program director. Elizabeth works on a news sheet for the community, and she also belongs to a book group, which keeps her mentally stimulated. • In conclusion, I (**Shaubie**) will confess I don't have e-mail, but snail mail is still running and it would be great to hear from any of you anytime!

—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Wolfington Hubbard-Ovens, 22 Inverness Dr., Apt. I-116, New Hartford, NY 13413; Margaret Shaub, 159 Village Green Dr., Apt. 2, So. Burlington, VT 05403.

42

As I write this there is much talk about Hurricane Isaac, which brings to mind the soggy start we had at Midd in 1938. I remember wet clothes, droopy hair, and ruined shoes. Last year Irene hit Vermont about the same time. I understand classes were canceled at some schools. We weren't so lucky! • Wondering how our Southern classmates fared during Isaac, I checked with **Susan Hulings Ottinger** in Baton Rouge, La. She lives on the second floor of a retirement community. There were extensive preparations before the storm but there was no damage at her facility. She has a grandson in Penobscot, Maine, who is becoming an organic farmer, and she has other relatives around the state. Susan remembers how they sweltered in 100-degree heat at the 45th reunion. They decided to abandon their planned finery and be comfortable in shorts for the banquet. • I had a nice chat with **Beatrice Simpler Braun** in Spring Hill, Fla. Isaac brought them rain but no damage. Bea reminded me that after Midd she went on to medicine and psychiatry and had a busy life. Now she sees patients one day a week and also does counseling on Medicare. She has special memories of Contemporary Civilization classes with Prof. Heinrichs. • I'm very sorry to report that **Betty Blanchard Robinson** passed away on September 30. She was living in Keene, N.H., near her sons. At the Convocation ceremony during reunion she received an Alumni Plaque Award. It was a very special tribute to all Betty accomplished and all that she and **Phil** did for our class. In her absence her son David '67 accepted the Plaque for her.

—Class Correspondent: Nancy Hall Whitehouse (whitehousenancy@ymail.com), 75 State St., Unit 61, Portland, ME 04101.

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REUNION CLASS Correspondent **Jean Jordan Sheild** reports: **Gertrude "Scotty" Lacey Thornton** stays very active in her retirement community in Atlantic Beach, Fla., and she travels a lot. During the summer she enjoyed a family celebration in New York where they had a picnic by the Hudson River. For her 90th birthday her family gave her a party with 34 people and later they spent six days together in St. Augustine. She also took a trip to St. Louis where she enjoyed seeing the Arch as well as a museum dedicated to the Indians of the Plains. Working on her Chinese brush painting keeps her busy with monthly meetings of the northeast Florida chapter of the Sumi-e Society of America, and now she is looking forward to the annual meeting in Minneapolis, where she plans to attend a three-day workshop on how to be a judge. • Mowing grass was the summer activity for **Alice Landis Tonry**. She has 250 acres in Hampton Falls, N.H., of which 60 acres are dedicated to Christmas trees. Her job is to mow the lanes between the trees and she enjoys driving the tractor. She has 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, the newest born last April. Daughter Abbie and family live nearby but she is still in her own home. • Although she doesn't drive any more, **Yvonne Golding Weinhardt** still enjoys living in Dallas, Texas. She was looking forward to her son coming from the West Coast with his two children, seven and five. She still keeps very much in touch with her relatives in France, although she hasn't been there for eight years. Her French cousin did come to visit her and wrote back that it was *magnifique*! She reminisced that she had wonderful memories of Middlebury. • Another of our classmates still in her own home is **Anne Willis**, who lives in Manchester, Mass. Her brother died in November, but his wife and daughter still live next door. Niece Susan is with her now and does the cooking for her since her eyesight is failing. They enjoy being right downtown close to the library and many shops. Anne is active in the Women's Club. Their special activity is going on group walks in Beverly, which is only 10 minutes away. They sometimes go to the Bennett Center where they can do stationary bikes and weight machines. • Sad news to report is the passing of **Jane Botsford Armstrong**. Jane had a distinguished career as a sculptor and received many national awards. In 2004 the National Sculpture Society honored her with its annual award for her entire body of work. She had produced more than 700 pieces over a span of 40 years and many had been shown in prestigious art galleries and museums all over the world. She began her career sculpting in stone—mostly marble—but also worked in wood and bronze. Middlebury can be proud—because of her love of poetry, her bust of Robert Frost is at Bread Loaf. • Correspondent **John Gale** reports: **Bob** and **Ann Cole Byington** are doing well in Texas. Bing continues to swim 20 laps in the pool each day; he says 90 to 100 degree temperatures are just too hot for golf. He has started a weekly choral group at their retirement community, with gradually increasing participation; they use the lyrics of songs from the '30s to '50s, doing without the scores or a pianist. He says they remember the tunes very well. Ann is busy crocheting tiny garments in preparation for a new great-grandchild. • **Dumont Rush** e-mails that wife Peggy remains his caregiver, manager, social secretary, landscape gardener, snow shovel operator, housekeeper, and dearest friend. He says that they almost never turn on the TV and haven't seen a movie for at least 25 years. Peggy reads several books a week; he reads the comics. He hasn't had any recent contact with classmates but maintains a close friendship with Deb Wales at the College and the Cane Society and is involved with current efforts to increase membership in the Society. As for possible travel, Dumont comments that he shudders at the thought of having to get on a commercial airliner but does enjoy flying his friend's Cessna 172. Peggy adds that the friend is Middlebury's organist emeritus, Emory Fanning. • This past summer **Page Ufford** took a train to Rhode Island on his birthday and went from there to a son's summer home in New Hampshire for a weekend with family. He planned to fly to Atlanta, Ga., in September for a visit with his other son's family. • **Stu Walker**'s activities this past summer were mainly involved with caring for wife Frances, who died in September, but he writes, "I did get away for one brief European regatta on Lago di Como in Italy, where I've always wanted to sail, but I found the winds are extremely fluky, and being away from Frances, I didn't sail very well—fifth! I am working on a new book (which JSG had asked about) about places to which we traveled in Europe between regattas: Holland, France, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Spain, Portugal—lots of history. It'll probably be called *Travels with Thermopylae*, the name of my European boat. I still plan to be in Middlebury next June."

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We send our best wishes to our classmates. Send us your news!

—Class Correspondents: Ruth Wheaton Evans (rrwe@verizon.net), 80 Salisbury St., Unit 603, Worcester, MA 01609; Elizabeth Ring Hennefrund (eliz.bet@earthlink.net), 397 Old Sherman Hill Rd., Woodbury, CT 06798.

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Greetings from Peterborough, N.H.! The good news is that **Roy** and Bev Boynton '48 **Kinsey** planned to attend the Alumni College over Labor Day Weekend, learning from some of Middlebury's most inspiring professors, and **Jessie Woodwell Bush** was looking forward to a family reunion in September. Stay tuned for details to come. • The sad news is that **Ruth Collins Shikes** died on August 6, and **Jean "Nikki" Lacey Patterson** on August 22. There will be obituaries in a future issue of this magazine. • **Shirley**

ClassActs

Miller Stearns and I enjoyed annual lunches at Sardi's with Ruth in her New York life, and Dottie Laux O'Brien and Shirley remember annual reunions at the late Mary Hatcher Hruby's lakeside home in Middletown Springs, Vt. We are proud of Ruth's leadership as editor of the *Campus* newspaper, and as a member of Mortar Board. • I have been on e-mail with Nikki regularly since our 60th reunion. We surely remember Nikki and Lil "O" with pigtails flying on those ski slopes! Audrey Nunnemacher Pertl survives still wearing one pigtail but being challenged with poor eyesight. She writes that while watching the French Open tennis tournament, she followed the tennis matches standing up close to the TV at eye level and then she jumped back and forth with the flight of the balls. Her energy persists! • June Robinson Reenan has been living in Elmira, N.Y., these six years since her husband died, and she talked with Barbara "Baba" Boyden Wetherbee recently—they're both busy and cheering each other on. • Betts Allen Sutman phoned to say she is "pushing 90" as we all are. A new resident at her retirement community in Basking Ridge, N.J., is Jean Salisbury. She's the widow of Richard "Sully" Salisbury, a New Jersey community leader and generous supporter of our class and Middlebury, who died in 1995. She's also the mother of Lisa, Class of 1979. • Helen Smith Brockway was present for the February graduation of her grandson, Ross Brockway '11.5, who gave the student address to the senior class. His grandmother says it was "a humorous and good speech, an affirmation of a liberal arts education—to encourage lifelong learning and always ask questions." Ross has made a two-year commitment to Teach for America. Helen and her husband were also at their farm in Wisconsin for the usual five months, struggling to keep up with the weeds. • Jane Elliott Brayden has moved back to Cooperstown and is at 3 Old School Court, Cooperstown, NY 13326, close to old friends, the church, and family she missed during her two years in a retirement home in Oneonta. She is still traveling. One trip was to Boulder, Colo., to see her grandson get his master's degree, and later in the summer she took a cruise along the Maine coast. She's aiming for that 70th reunion. • Betty Adell McCord e-mailed from a trip with her daughter in Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia, congratulating our class on its 70 percent participation in the Alumni Fund. • At RiverMead, I am joined by Duke '48 and Nancy Richardson Powell '48, Connie Gibbs Oliver '53, and we recently welcomed Barbara Flink Ewels '46. That put me in touch with "Birch," Bette Bertschinger Saul '46 by phone from Gladwyne, Pa., and Jean Luckhardt Stratton '46 from Medford Leas, N.J. A male resident was a classmate of Shirley Stearns and the late Joanne Higgins Wolfley at Scarsdale High School. Lots of Blue and White in my life! That's a good thing! Let's keep in touch! "Mew"

—Class Correspondent: Mary Elizabeth Wisotzkey McClellan (maryliz124@comcast.net), 124 RiverMead Rd., Peterborough, NH 03458.

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Unfortunately we are at that age when we're losing dear friends, but two in one week is very sad news. Phyllis Hewson Evans died peacefully August 20 in New Rochelle, N.Y. A wonderful mother and devoted friend, Phyllis loved keeping in touch with her high school and college classmates, church family members, and community friends. She truly enjoyed writing cards and letters and receiving them in return. Condolences are sent to Sheldon and the family from her Class of 1946. • The same week Connie Smith Carpenter died. She had been a resident of Wake Robin in Shelburne, Vt., for several years. The class sends condolences to John and her family. • Another sign of the times for the Class of '46: Many of us are now moving to retirement communities. I think we are all tired of trying to cope with houses and gardens and all their problems. Sheila Schmidt Rowland has moved to the Lodge in Middlebury. Her address is 350 Lodge Rd., Apt. 402, Middlebury, VT 05753. Anyone within driving distance please stop in, she says. • Mary Elizabeth Cummings Nordstrom also has downsized. Her new address is 1 Huntington Common Dr., #234, Kennebunk, ME 04043. She feels like she is back in Forest Hall, walking past well-appointed parlors to the dining hall and occasionally to writers circle and to French class. Husband Ev has survived the ninth pneumonia and is learning to walk to the dining hall in increments after using a wheelchair. They are both very happy there. • Barbara Snow Cassedy is also on the move again. Her new address is 6221A 27th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115. She and her lovely cat Daisy had been with her daughter for a while. She is most interested in knowing if there are any Midd alums in her area. • We had a nice note from George, Natalie Fox's husband. Natalie is very happy at Sunrise Assisted Living in Wayland, Mass.. While there are no exciting trips, they are together about every other afternoon, which is very pleasant for both of them. She was able to talk with her only living brother, who lives in Dublin, N.H., and her only local daughter sees her weekly. She really enjoys both activities. George says Natalie is doing very well and remembers many events of Middlebury and Northfield School. • Jeanne Picard Johnson and husband Art are enjoying their community in Florida. It has several perks including a van that takes them grocery shopping, and to clothing stores, doctors, special events, museums, church, etc. Their apartment is as big as the house they had in Charlotte, N.C., and costs less so she feels they can stay there until that unknown date with Heaven. She has had trouble with hearing and eyes, but is fixing up both of them. Art has improved tremendously since they moved. Her only regret on moving is the heat. She just can't get out much. Her new address is 201 Arbor Lake Drive, Unit 395, Naples, FL 34110. • On June 30 Gloria Antolini Keyser attended the fairy-tale wedding of her grandson, David Keyser, to his lovely bride, Rebecca Reichel. David is an engineer with the U.S. Picatinny Arsenal. Rebecca teaches second grade and her entire class attended the wedding. Many of Gloria's children and grandchildren were in attendance making it a memorable family reunion. She continues to enjoy the active life at Piper Shores in Scarborough, Maine. She's particularly committed to the work of a dementia task force there, charged with laying the groundwork for a specialized dementia care unit in the retirement facility. She says the joy of being with beloved classmates at the 65th reunion last year still lingers on. • Peg Romer Jones says her group of volunteers at the hospital has shrunk badly, so she has been there four or five times a week. She was hoping to get to New Hampshire in September and then to California in November and she promises to report on those trips. • Joanne Davis Hohmeister and Frank were very busy in July taking their 15-year-old granddaughter back and forth to Nutmeg Ballet in Torrington, Conn. Her house in Stamford is too far away. The group danced at Jacob's Pillow in Massachusetts and had two performances in Torrington. Joanne says it's great fun to watch these young people dance. • Living on Cape Cod Kay Craven spent a lot of time at the beach this past summer because it was so hot and humid. She was hoping to play some golf during the cooler weather. • Ruth Riley Wendell recently had repairs done around the house. The repairs made her realize how much unneeded stuff she has been keeping. She doesn't think she could endure the necessary downsizing to move. • Your correspondent will attest to the fact that we all have too much stuff. I thought I had given away, sold, and donated everything that I would not need. Wrong! When box after box arrived at my new apartment, I realized I still could have done without half of it. Trying to find a place to put everything has been a chore. Having said that, I really feel I will be very happy here. Everyone is very friendly and if I wish, I could be busy 24/7 with bridge, mahjong, dominos, etc., and all the exercise classes and trips to wherever. My daughter Susan is about 15 minutes away, as is my granddaughter and two great-grandsons.

—Class Correspondent: Janet Shaw Percival (wcpercival46@gmail.com), 2736 NW 77th Blvd., Gainesville, FL 32606.

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In early August I sent out my quarterly requests for news. In answer I immediately received two sad letters. The first was to inform me that Margaret MacCormick de Forest had passed away in July. The second was from Wil Britten, Barbara "Viki" Verdicchio Britten's husband. He wrote that Alzheimer's has caught up with his wife of 62 years and while she does have some cognition remaining, it does not include reading and writing. They are fortunate to live in an excellent continuing care community but miss their former visits to Middlebury. Viki occasionally will talk of her experiences there. I have sent Wil a note of encouragement. • Jim Brucks wrote that he is indeed among the living but at the time I wrote to him he was suffering from a bout of shingles, definitely not a pleasant experience. Other than that he has no serious impairments. His wife Iris (Forst)

'48 was recovering from a hip replacement and so was using a cane. They've lived in the same house in White Plains, N.Y., for over 60 years but the town is no longer a quiet suburb. It's a large and bustling city. Their two daughters have both been married for over 35 years and each has two grown children. Their eldest granddaughter has a doctorate in marine science from William and Mary. She recently presented them with a great-granddaughter. They keep busy with theater groups, visits to museums, attending exhibits, etc. They have traveled extensively but no longer do so. • **Carl Parkinson** enclosed a picture of himself and his wife with his answer to me. They are a handsome couple and look very young. He and his wife, Helen, have been married 64 years and have had "a wonderful life." Carl very much wanted to attend the reunion but was unable to make it due to health and expenses. They were planning to go to a very beautiful resort in Orlando where they have a time-share to celebrate Helen's birthday. Their son lives in Raleigh, N.C., and their grandson in Durham, N.C., but they do not see them as often as they'd like as their "bosses keep the thumb on them." Carl is glad he doesn't work anymore, as it is so stressful. • **June Brookman Kinney** was sorry to miss the reunion but does not travel like she used to. She did visit her family in New York for a week and as her four children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandkids live in the same vicinity, she was able to spend time with all of them. She still lives on a lake in the small town of Lake Placid, Fla., with her friend, Cliff, and their dog, a Cairn terrier. She loves the town where there are beautiful murals depicting its history. As an outcome of that June became interested in her own family history and has researched it and her genealogy. She and Cliff keep busy with local clubs and many friends. • Like so many of us, **Bobbie Bates Lauterwasser** had company all of July. In the third week of August her entire family (14 in all) were to have a reunion and get together for the first time in five years. Their trip to Chicago for their grandson Steven's college graduation was the high point of the year. There were 1,100 in Steve's class but huge screens had been placed either side of the stage so they could actually see Steven receive his diploma. Steve belonged to a motet group of 40 and they were able to hear them perform. Bobbie's husband Herb had worked in Chicago years ago, but it was Bobbie's first visit and it was a real treat for her and daughter Jill. They stayed in a motel right on Lake Michigan and every morning walked along its shores. Everything about the trip was great, especially the fact that son Bruce '73 drove them there. Their granddaughter Clara is a sophomore at Northeastern Univ. in Boston, Gregory's a junior in high school, and Hannah is in the eighth grade. • Life is busy and exciting these days for **Jeanie Mace Burnell**. Her second granddaughter produced a baby girl recently. The first granddaughter surprised her not long ago by leaving her six-month-old baby boy in his carrier outside her front door. Then she hid and when Jean opened the door to find out what was going on, she jumped out from behind the fence. They live in Oregon and Jean had no idea that they were even in the vicinity. She thought it a fun way to have visitors. • **Natalie Simpson MacDonald** and I spent a delightful afternoon together on the Cape, having lunch, talking about the world in general and about Midd friends of long ago. She has a beautiful home on a pond in Dennis, Mass., and treated me to a tour. We hope sometime to be able to reune with the other classmates who have homes on the Cape. • In answer to several requests for information about our class I offer the following: As far as some of us at the reunion could determine there were 196 when we started our freshman year. This number was increased when several men returning from the war joined our class. The classes they had belonged to had already graduated. We had two transfer students. Class members reside in 22 states, north to south and east to west so we are well represented nationally. There are still 71 of us alive to tell the story. Two members suffer from Alzheimer's. Letters to one member have been returned "left without forwarding address." Eleven do not communicate for whatever reason. The rest of us are as well and as active as our remarkably advanced years permit so hurrah for the Class of 1947.

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REUNION CLASS Correspondent **Sandy Rosenberg** writes, "Although this may be the winter issue, Northern California was ablaze last summer. The north part of the state was ravaged by the worst series of forest fires in recent memory. The smoke drifted south over Sacramento and older folks were advised to stay indoors. • Before we know it, June 7–9, 2013, will be here. Please make your plans to attend Reunion Weekend. Let's make our 65th class reunion a GRAND HURRAH. • **Bart Nourse** sent in some news after contacting a few classmates: **Dan Petrizzi** writes that the only golf he now plays is watching PGA tournaments on TV and not understanding how those pros can miss two- and three-foot putts. "I detest those long putters that some of these pros use. I think they will soon be outlawed. It takes very little skill to use them. Just read the lie correctly and the ball will go in. I am now 92 and will be 93 in May. I have many health problems that make travel too difficult and complicated. Wife Jennie and I do manage to get to Florida, where we have a townhouse, to spend the winter months. Once there, we stay put. The only travel we do is mostly within our neighborhood for shopping and medical visits, of which there are many. We've been going to Florida since 1987 and we used to have a very active life (golf, social activities, meetings with high school classmates, gym, etc.) until 2005. Now we just enjoy the weather and visits with a few friends. However, no complaints—we are happy to still be walking (I use a walker and cane) on God's green acre." • **Stew Washburn** writes, "Since we sold our Connecticut home in 2005, Barbara and I escape the winter each November by driving to our Sun City, Georgetown, Texas, abode. Each April, avoiding the Texas summer, we make the return trip to our principal residence, a house we built in 1971 as a vacation home in Ludlow, Vt. Our daughter lives in Austin, Texas, and our son, two granddaughters, and two great-ones (a third on the way) are in Connecticut. Our golf rounds have become rare—as in *scarce* and *not well done*. Healthwise we're doing okay. Recent replacement installations are functioning well for me: a titanium left shoulder and a bovine aortic valve. This past baseball season, maintaining my devout, unquestioning loyalty to the Red Sox was extremely difficult; still, provided it's not a night game in California, I'm

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tuned in. See y'all at our 65th!" • Bart received a phone call from the former secretary of **Jack Kofoed** with the sad news that he passed away last June. Our sympathy is sent to his family. • Correspondent **Elizabeth Bredenberg Ness** reports: **Camille Buzby Lamont** (better known to many of us as "Buz") was in a fog in Maine enjoying a family mini-reunion when she returned our postcard. Ted and Buz celebrated their 60th anniversary in Puerto Rico visiting old haunts. She hopes to be at our 65th reunion next June and let's hope that all who are reading these notes are planning to be there too. • **Patricia Salmon Henderson** has cheerfully obliged us with another book recommendation: Denis Johnson's *Train Dreams*. Pat said that she kept thinking about dear Cook all the way through it, even though it's about life in the Northwest, not New England. • **Sylvia Smead Gallagher** lives in a beautiful, mountainside assisted living residence in Rutland, Vt., that is super friendly, has lovely surroundings, and has a family-like staff. She's taking apart photo albums to reconstruct two for her children (*This Is My Life*) and is doing a third combining all the travels and wilderness canoeing. • Too many death notices have come our way recently: **Susan McWilliams Leighton**'s husband, Roy, passed away. We also learned that **Margaret Mettler Schnorf** died in December 2006 and **Scott Pike** died in August 2009. Sadly we must also report that **Judith Little Frew** passed away on August 26 and **Marya Steele Kellogg** passed away on September 18. Our condolences are sent to all the families of the deceased. • **Bev Boynton Kinsey**, who lives in Arizona, has been climbing local mountains and she and Roy '45 were off to California and then Wyoming, where they planned to visit "Georgie" (**Gloria Greenley Morgan**). Bev swims a quarter mile each morning, delivers Meals on Wheels, and volunteers at the library. • Tom '49 and **Janet Hubbard Metcalf** have lived in Hawaii for over 60 years. While Tom was finishing up at Midd, Jan worked at the Placement Office where she saw a notice of a need for teachers in Hawaii, with interviews taking place in Burlington. Tom had an interview and got a job—a two-year contract, but he stretched that out for decades. All four of their children live there, too.

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Correspondent **Dixon Hemphill** reports: Because *Middlebury Magazine* has periodically contained a section entitled "War Stories" I decided to contact the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center to ask if they had any information about any of our classmates, several of whom served in this unit during World War II. Soon after my request the archivist with the division wrote me about **Phil Deane** who, as our readers may remember, died five years ago. Phil joined the Army in 1943 and joined the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale in Colorado. He deployed to Italy in December 1944 and soon found himself in action against the German army. His division's mission was to break the so-called "Gothic Line"—a 120-mile stretch of Italian mountainside controlled by the Germans that blocked the Allies' critical route to Berlin. In April 1945 Phil was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions at Monte della Spe. I had no idea he had seen action but I do remember his telling me one day that he was hiding from a German tank while standing in a hole half filled with water in a snowbank. Suddenly the tank stopped and the gunner slowly turned the turret around in his direction. Phil wondered if this was the end—but fortunately the gunner decided not to waste a 50-pound bomb on one single solder and the tank proceeded to go on its way. The toll the war took on the 10th Mountain Division was staggering. Over the 114 days during which the division was engaged in battle, nearly 1,000 soldiers were killed and more than 4,000 were wounded. These numbers would prove to be the heaviest losses ever sustained by a U.S. division for that length of time in combat. • I am having trouble contacting classmates. In some cases their phone numbers are no longer in service (they may have traded home phones for cell phones as many people are doing these days) and in other cases there is no answer. I sincerely hope others of you will respond to my next request for information, telling me about a trip you have taken, what your children and/or grandchildren are doing, etc. For example, **Lonny Walheim** told me during an earlier reunion that his son was an astronaut and I'd love to tell you classmates more about his activities but I am unable to reach Lonny! So in order to tell you what one couple has done recently I will describe the wonderful trip June and I took to Prince Edward Island this summer. We traveled 1,100 miles by car with our daughter Chris and her husband Fred, who did all the driving in his company car. After crossing the nine-mile-long bridge between New Brunswick and PEI, we found ourselves in one of the nicest countrysides we had ever been in. On this island measuring 120 miles long and about 40 miles in width there was a little of everything—farms with pastures of corn and wheat, neat houses with manicured lawns, great views of the landscape, and picturesque fishing villages with a lot of boats, many of which were built for catching lobsters. We enjoyed the many kinds of seafood served in the restaurants we visited—mussels, clams, oysters, crabs, and of course lobsters. While there we visited the parents of a good friend who lives near us in Falls Church, Va. Although we had never met them before they greeted us like old friends and quickly made us feel like one of their family. She makes jewelry out of shells that are found along the shore. After serving us a delicious lunch of seafood chowder and homemade biscuits, her husband, a former teacher who has written three books, two about PEI and one entitled *The Reluctant Detective*, showed us his homemade 26-foot sailboat. Several years ago he sailed from his home north through the Maritimes, down the St. Lawrence, through the Great Lakes to Chicago, and partway down the Mississippi River where his engine failed and he had to give up his plans to complete the "Great Loop," continuing south to the Gulf of Mexico, around Florida, and back up the East Coast. If any of you readers are considering a trip to Prince Edward Island, be sure to let us know because June has written a two-page letter describing our trip and all the places we visited and the things we saw.

—Class Correspondents: Dixon Hemphill (dixonH1925@cox.net), 10910 Olm Dr., Fairfax Station, VA 22039; Rachel Adkins Platt (rplatt27@gmail.com), 34 Tobey Brook, Pittsford, NY 14534.

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Please write or call us with your news!

—Class Correspondents: Corwin Elwell, 119 Harris Ave., Brattleboro, VT 05301 (802.254.6851); Sally Peek Nelson, 80 Lyme Rd., #315, Hanover, NH 03755 (603.643.1285).

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Happy holidays, or post-holidays, as the case may be. • **Jim** and Ann McGinley '53 **Ross** wrote a nice letter telling of their move to Eastview Retirement Community right in Middlebury, having sold their home in Cornwall. After 40 years in their home, with downsizing they were confronted with many decisions of "what has to go." They are very happy with Eastview and Jim says all of the folks there are great. They would be very happy to show any classmates around. We will always remember your lovely home where you and Ann hosted us at many reunions, Jim. Our thanks to you both and we wish you much happiness in your new home. • **Betty Nelson** wrote from London while the Olympics were still going on. Although she didn't attend any of the events, she enjoyed constant coverage by BBC. She finds it a joy to be in Wimbledon when the tennis is going on. She's still working full time in market research. After 50 years she ran for board membership of the professional body—the Market Research Society—and she was elected. Congratulations, Betty! She was planning to welcome **John** and the late **Helen Reid Gilmore**'s son James this autumn. He is with Merrill Lynch in California and spent a summer in her old company, Taylor Nelson. Betty also had trips to Ripplecove, Ayer's Cliff, in Quebec, and a week in Madeira where her daughter has a time-share. She is already looking forward to our 65th reunion! • **Gretchen Storer Evans** is still an esteemed (**Lee**'s word, not hers) ballet teacher in Denver, Colo. "As a teacher, I work to instill strength and confidence. Ballet is about dancing the music, not to the music." She teaches all ages and skill levels in a positive learning environment. She also has designed and patented a ballet skirt with unique design and fabric patterns. She takes a little time off to vacation at her "pad" on St. George Island, Fla., for a bit of the sea. We remember what a great skier Gretchen was, but she says she does more skating than skiing now. Gretchen's web site is www.gretchenevansdesigns.com. • **Barbara Pike Prinn** recalled

Le zoo de Mvog Betsi à Yaoundé non loin du campus de Middlebury au Cameroun. On peut y admirer des babouins, des singes, des reptiles, des hyènes et d'autres animaux qui semblant mieux s'adapter par rapport aux animaux des zoos que nous connaissons.

a conversation she had with some of the student helpers at our 60th reunion. She was talking about the many changes on the campus (elevators, etc.) and she asked one student what changes he might expect when he comes back for his 60th reunion. He quickly replied, "Oh, we'll have spaceships here." He may very well be right! Barb sent a poem that she wrote that some of us may relate to. "What was it that I thought about/and then remembered/and then forgot about?/What kind of a problem may my forgetting this/Have brought about?/Now that is something I'm really up-wrought about!/Maybe—peace with the aging memory/Is something I need to be taught about!" She says that every so often she bursts into "Walls of Ivy" or "When Gamaliel Painter Died." Does that happen to any of you? It does to me (**Lee**). • **Betty Gale Woods** enjoyed lunch with Jim and **Barbara Lukens Calkins** and Ken '50 and **Carolyn Sackett Coleburn** in Montpelier, Vt. It was the first time without the late **Mary Krum Dale** and she was greatly missed. Betty is going to cruise down Columbia and Snake Rivers on a paddleboat, and then go on to Seattle, Victoria, and Vancouver. Sounds like a wonderful trip, Betty. • Co-correspondent **Beth Huey Newman** spent some of her summer driving to Williamstown, Mass., to visit her daughter who is a professor at Williams College, and then to Woodstock, Vt., where granddaughter Mercer Mae was in a horse show. Beth was thrilled to see her riding and jumping. She is 13 and riding and music are her loves. • **Joan Macklaier Birkett** wrote from her home in Invermere, B.C., Canada, at the head of the Columbia River, where she is secretary of her 18-unit Strata. She spends a few hours a week at the hospital arranging loan equipment for postsurgery patients. Her younger daughter is a performing musician with her husband in Thailand on the island of Kohpang'nan. Joan and her daughter enjoy communicating by Skype and she remarked what a miracle modern technology is! Joan gives us some thought-provoking words: "What keeps me busy these days is trying not to be busy and allowing moments that need attention to present themselves. Learning more coping strategies to weather the rough times, i.e. awareness of nature and tuning in to where friends are at without feeling the need to fix things. Learning to be a better listener without judgments. Being ready to reach out when needed." • News was received that **Bill McIlwain** passed away on September 20. Our sympathy goes to his family, especially widow Lois (Rapp) '50. • You are all very important to us and we love hearing from you. Eventually, we hope to hear from ALL of you. Whether your news is big or little, or if you have some memories or thoughts to share, memorable professors, classes, or friends, please keep in touch. We wish you all good health and happiness and best wishes for 2013. Lee and Beth

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Correspondent **Barbara Cummiskey Villet** reports: Winter is a time to read and so I was struck by the notion we ought to share our best reads with each other. This came about in part because I finally connected with **Polly Norton Polstein**, whose initial response was "I live a quiet life." But quiet time is reading time and so I decided to begin a new search for what all of you are reading. Polly nominated a reread of Thoreau's *In the Maine Woods*, since that's where she lives, but she also introduced me to Barry Unsworth's work. Her most recent was *Quality of Mercy*—and almost as an afterthought, she enthusiastically offered *The Aeneid*. So the book world still absorbs her and between taking her dog for a walk and having her morning swim (who says she's not active?), she also caught me up on her retirement from years of important work on the board of her local library and the Maine Humanities Council's program of continuing education. She still attends its programs, but no longer helps to organize them. • I also heard from **Caryl Entwistle Huffaker**, who remains active as a journalist and critic. Here she is in her own words: "Last February we drove down the East Coast to Naples, Fla., visiting eight old friends, and they do get older—one we hadn't seen in 24 years. In July I was in Lenox, Mass., to hear the Boston Symphony and go to all the grand theater groups and then was off to the Glimmerglass Opera near Cooperstown, N.Y. August was beach time on the Outer Banks, and in September I was off to Michigan to see grandchildren. Bill is still working, making hawser-sized ropes, and I'm still writing for two local weekly papers. My beat is museums, reviewing plays, art openings, and human interest, which I adore doing. I walk with a cane from my accident three years ago, but at least I'm walking." • Correspondent **Mary Halsted Francouer** writes: We are sad to report the death of **Betty Parker Burrows** on August 17. During our junior year Betty, **Caryl Huffaker**, the late **Lindy Pahner Christie**, **Mary-Lou McLeod Aagaard**, and I lived in the Hillcrest Annex. Betty was fun and she was brilliant! That year she added a foreign language to her demanding curriculum to see if she could break her straight-A record and get a B. As usual, she had to settle for an A. In her adult life she worked as a research chemist at the U.S. Army Fort Detrick biomedical development and research lab. In her spare time she was an adventure-seeking amateur pilot. • Correspondent **Chuck Ratte** reports: Let's first send **Bill Huey** and **Ken Nourse** a big THANK YOU for keeping us well informed concerning the whereabouts and events of our classmates for the past five years. • **Clay** and **Barbara Eckman Butzer** have been constant companions since they met at registration in 1948. Clay was my roommate and I've been kidding him about this instant attraction and 60-year amorous relationship ever since. He never gave any of us guys a chance to date her. Would you believe those two are now parents of four children, grandparents to 10, and have recently become great-grandparents? Two grandkids have already completed college and two joined the Marine Corps. One completed a tour in Iraq and one is a career Marine with the USMC Air Wing. The Butzers are retired (whew, about time!) and live in Lancaster, Pa., Barbara's hometown. In August they were looking forward to a little vacation in their summer place in Avalon, N.J., where they planned to have breakfast with **Hank Draghi** and wife Joan. Hank could give them a rundown on our 60th reunion, which they were unable to attend. • **John** and **Barbara Becker Taylor** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last July in Berkeley, Calif. The celebration was attended by almost 100 people and included special preparations by 1) son Bob, who displayed photographs of their years of marriage with sheets of paper attached for attendees to identify themselves; 2) son Bill, a computer whiz, who rigged-up a slide show that showed 193 pictures of Mom and Dad from infancy through their days at Middlebury; 3) daughter Susie, who provided a tape of 60 years of music oldies but goodies; and 4) daughter Cathy, who guided the preparation and execution of the ceremony. Their adoring children all live within an hour's drive from them. John had a career as a city manager and served in cities from Kansas to California. • **Charlie "Chip" Archibald** was one of the first to respond to my request for information on their lives. I found Chip's activities over the years very interesting. Chip has been a Baptist minister, a Methodist minister, and had a long career as a Unitarian Universalist minister. Now he serves as an associate minister to a congregation in Cambria, Calif. Now, tell me, did you ever think of Chip as a minister as you labored over test tubes with him in the chemistry lab? Chip continues to correspond with **Don Beck**, who lives in Connecticut. Chip's e-mail is charlieuu@gmail.com. Give him a buzz, you'll enjoy a fun conversation. His final remark: "At 87 I am quite content with my life." That's nice! • It was with sadness we learned of the death of **Bill Cronin** on July 21. He was well known and liked and was perhaps best known as a letterman athlete and for his prowess on the hockey rink. • Nancy Rielle '82 sent this note about her father, the late **Charlie Rielle**: "I missed visiting the Class of '52 reunion tent last year. My dad and I were lucky enough to share the same reunion cycle and enjoyed visiting each other's tents to catch up with each other's Midd pals. I was planning to keep up the tradition in Dad's memory but had to miss my first reunion ever. I'm pretty sure it was the first Dad ever missed as well. He cherished his ties to Midd—I'm sure he was there with you in spirit!"

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REUNION CLASS **Elizabeth "Biffy" Darling Sherburne** summers in Vermont and spends winters in St. Petersburg, Fla., where

A Rock Hard Place

A stretch of icy weather put a hitch in the ski-jump preparations for Winter Carnival back in 1954. Here's how the intrepid Dick Powell '56 responded.

A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE
WINTER CARNIVAL
OH NO!
© 2013 MARK ALAN STAMATY
AT 7:00 AM ONE SUNDAY DURING WINTER CARNIVAL IN FEBRUARY 1954 AFTER A NIGHT OF FREEZING RAIN...
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
DISASTROUS!
CARNIVAL ORGANIZERS FOUND THEMSELVES BETWEEN A ROCK-HARD ICE-COVERED SKI-JUMP LANDING HILL...
SKI-JUMP COMPETITION IS ONLY 4 HOURS FROM NOW!
WE CAN'T HOLD IT ON THIS ICE!
...AND A HARD PLACE.
IT WOULD BE VERY HARD TO WAKE UP ENOUGH GUYS IN THE MEN'S DORMS TO CHOP AND GRIND THAT ICE!
THEY'VE BEEN DRINKING AND PARTYING ALL NIGHT!
SOME GOT TO BED AN HOUR AGO!
A DARK DESPAIR GRIPPED ALL THOSE PRESENT.
IT'S HOPELESS!
ALL BUT ONE: DICK POWELL ('56)
I'LL WAKE THEM.
HE DECLARED, PULLING A TARNISHED METAL OBJECT FROM A SMALL CASE.
HIS BOY SCOUT BUGLE.
DON'T DO IT, DICK! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
YOU'D BE TAKING YOUR LIFE IN YOUR HANDS!
DICK WAS UNDETERRED.
HAVING BUT ONE LIFE TO GIVE FOR WINTER CARNIVAL, I OFFER IT FREELY.
INSPIRED BY DICK'S COURAGE, A FRAT BROTHER OFFERED TO ACCOMPANY HIM.
INTO THE VALLEY OF DORMS THEY STRODE, DICK BLASTING "REVEILLE" WITH ALL HIS MIGHT.
THE REACTION WAS AS EXPECTED.
SHUT UP!
GO AWAY!
IF YOU WANNA LIVE!
CAME THE HOWLS AND THREATS OF THE HUNGOVER.
BUT DICK BLASTED ON TILL ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS WERE RECRUITED. THEY GRABBED SHOVELS, PICKS, ANYTHING THEY COULD FIND AND RACED UP THE HILL IN A CARAVAN OF CARS.
THE SCENE WAS ORGANIZED CHAOS, SLIPPING, SLIDING, CHOPPING, GRINDING, THEY FOUGHT THE ICY SLOPE WITH URGENT FEROCITY.
AGAINST ALL ODDS, THEY MADE IT! JUST IN TIME, THE HILL WAS READY, THE COMPETITION BEGAN.
YAAAAY!
HOORAAAY!
AS CROWDS CHEERED THE SKIERS, A SMALL GROUP CLUSTERED AROUND A HUMBLE BUGLER.
YOU'RE A BETTER MAN THAN I AM, DICK POWELL!

COMIC BY MARK ALAN STAMATY

her son lives, near the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College. In summer she enjoys camping on Lake Dunmore. A group of Midd classmates, including **Ann McGinley Ross**, **Anne Coleman Zehner**, **Nancy Hamilton Shepherd**, and **Pat Hamilton Todd** get together for lunch. Biffy also hears from **Sue Taylor** and sees **Jean Overhysser Arneberg** in Clearwater, Fla., and **Marge McCallum Smith**'s daughter in Florida. Biffy is on our Reunion Committee and encourages us all: "Please come back to our 60th reunion!" She's thinking of a message board for classmates at reunion, and planning for speakers and activities. She urges classmates to send in ideas. She reminds us to come visit "where great things are happening" and she encourages us all to keep healthy! • **Marge Smith** lives in Portland, Ore.; three of her children are there also and one is in Seattle. One grandchild considered going to Middlebury but decided it was too far. The Japanese tsunami came within 80 miles of Portland! Marjorie enjoys the beach, walking, lots of reading, and traveling. Two summers ago she took a river cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest. She sends greetings to our class and says, "Enjoy each day as it comes and make new memories." • **John Nash** says he left Midd with a lot of regrets; he loved his time at Midd! He left after two years and transferred to Harvard, where he considered the ministry. He met his wife in 1957 and since 1959 they have lived in Duxbury, Mass., where they bought a 1737 house and barn for under $5,000! It was "the beginning of a wonderful life." They have a son Tim who works for Bank of America and a daughter Emily and a grandson and a granddaughter. In 1948 John and three friends drove across the country, worked in the wheat harvest in Kansas, and picked apples in California north of San Francisco. He stays in touch with **Al Kimbell** and **Don Peach**. John has not returned to a class reunion. • **W. Ransom Rice** lives in Lincoln, Vt., where he is pastor emeritus of the United Church of Lincoln, 15 miles up the road from Middlebury! He has been in Lincoln for 23 years and retired 10 years ago but still does a lot of parish work. His wife has a counseling service job in Addison County. They have four grown-up children, three of whom went to Midd, as did his grandfather! Their sons live in Minneapolis, Durham, N.C., and Middlebury, and their daughter lives in South Carolina. He sends greetings to our class and hopes to see everyone next year at the 60th! • **Sarah Hoover Tullis** lives in Timonium, Md., where she worked for 40 years for the Baltimore County Library. She is still living in her home. Since her retirement she has played duplicate bridge twice a week. She also plays with a singles bridge group Mondays and Fridays. She's a volunteer at a family crisis center, where she takes food to abused women and children and assists them in finding an apartment and a job and with not returning to the abuser. Clients may stay at the long-term housing center for up to two years. The PEO Sorority for Higher Education provides money for special needs. There's a need for short-term and long-term housing for drug users who have come out of rehab and for women who have come out of prison. Sarah coordinates items needed for residents' apartments. • **Barbara Connor McLaughlin** from Portland, Maine, is living in Southbury, Conn. Her health is good and she plays bridge four days a week. She also likes to read and she enjoys going out with friends. Barb sees a couple of Midd folks who were two years ahead of us. She returned to Midd in 1955 for Homecoming but not since. Barb also stays in touch with **Abby Kreh Gibson**. One of her sons is in L.A. and another in Brewster, N.Y. • From Shelburne, Vt., **Bob Kelly** writes, "I retired from and sold my CPA practice, Kelly, Jacobs & Assoc., in 1988 and somehow got involved in a mail-order company, Bridge Building Images, which sold spiritual and religious images in lots of different formats, e.g. note cards, holy cards, plaques, etc. I bought the owner out and continued the business until about 1998 when my son, Andrew, and a friend bought us out. They were both CPAs working in Boston and were sick of accounting. We were doing okay in the business, but not great. When I sold, the Internet had not yet arrived but it did shortly after. The boys really took advantage of it and have grown the business a lot faster than we could have. The name of the company is now the Vermont Christmas Company and can be seen at Vermontchristmasco.com. We continue to work some for the company as needed. I still play squash twice a week, tennis once, and golf about twice. My skiing at Mad River has been reduced to a few times a year and last year I went just once as Vermont had practically no snow and Mad River does not make snow. I've been fortunate, so far, that my health has allowed me to keep going. We don't go south for the winter because we don't like Florida. On a few occasions we have gone to San Juan or Costa Rica for a week to enjoy some beach time and golf in a climate that always seems warm with usually no rain."

—Class Correspondent: Janet Bradley Harris (drharris52@gmail.com), The Meridian, #546, 3455 South Corona St., Englewood, CO 80113.

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Correspondent **Nancy Whittemore Nickerson** reports: From my co-correspondent comes the following e-mail which proves that 80-year-olds still have a lot more adventures to consider. **Diane Schwob Strong** writes, "We recently returned from the most unique and extraordinary trip I have ever taken. Cy and I flew to Alaska on a fishing and wildlife trip run by an organization called Great Alaska Adventure, on the Kenai Peninsula (about two hours southwest of Anchorage), and believe me it was a great adventure! We spent the first two days and one night at a remote bear camp, where we arrived via a six-seated bush plane, which landed on the shore of Lake Clark. There, we spent the night in a tent and were able to view lots of brown bears in the wild, fishing at the confluence of three rivers. We saw a mama bear and her twin cubs—she would catch a fish and bring it to the cubs, who squabbled over it! The bears were in the process of storing up food before they moved into the mountains to hibernate for the winter. After returning to the lodge, we spent the next week fishing for salmon (silvers), casting for rainbow trout (fly-casting), on the Kenai River, and deep-sea halibut fishing in Prince William Sound out of Seward. In addition to the bears, we also viewed humpback whales, bald eagles, moose, puffins, seals, otters, and huge glaciers! The beauty and untouched scenery of the mountains that surround you everywhere with a lot of snow, and to be on and see the rushing glacial rivers and the huge lakes are sights that will remain with me always." • Unfortunately, Diane has to give up being my co-correspondent because of new responsibilities and I thank her so much for sharing these duties with me for the last three years. NOW, it is up to one of you to step forward and help me out—PLEASE! • As seems to happen more often than not now, I report with sadness the deaths of several of our classmates—most recently **Dick Bourbeau** in July and **Jane Coffin** in August. We also send sympathy to **Suzie Olsen Brown** and **Lois Wanstall Kaufmann**, whose husbands Temp Brown and Don Kaufmann have passed away. • **Peter Simonson** sent in this note: "When I recently went in for eye surgery, I discovered I was in good hands because the highly recommended doctor turned out to be a Midd graduate also. Jordan Sterrer '85 of Eyecare Medical Group in Portland, Maine, removed cataracts from both my eyes and the results were highly successful!" Check out a photo on page 83. • From Toronto, Canada, **Patricia Rice Cunningham** sent an update: "I only stayed three years at Middlebury, accumulating credits in required courses for entry into my training course at the University of Toronto (UofT). I graduated in 1957 from the Art as Applied to Medicine (AAM) program at UofT; was married in 1957 and had two children. I established the medical illustration unit at the University of Dar es Salaam Medical School (Tanzania). In 1974 I was appointed chief medical artist at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto and concurrently was cross-appointed assistant professor in the AAM program (renamed Biomedical Communications). I divorced and became a naturalized Canadian in 1977. I retired in 1998. Just for fun (and it was!) I attended the Middlebury Language School summer session in French in 2008 at age 75. Now I enjoy gardening, learning t'ai chi, hosting casual bridge twice a month, compiling a photographic record of fauna with which I share my property, and writing (see www.magazine.utoronto.ca/writers-circle/psum-patricia-cunnigham)." Yes, her name is spelled wrong in the URL!

—Class Correspondent: Nancy Whittemore Nickerson (forger@prodigy.net), 4 Osprey Ln., Mystic, CT 06355.

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Correspondent **John Baker** reports: **John Ackerman** and wife Helen (Starr) '56 are still living in Minneapolis. He retired from full-time ministry some years ago and spends time writing and "serving as a spiritual guide to individuals and a consultant

to congregations." John had a bout with lung cancer but seems confident that it is in remission. (It always amused me that at our 25th reunion we had a singing session in Pearsons and the Reverend John and I traded off-color limericks. We called it a draw well after midnight.) • **Garland Corey** retired in 1995 after a career in "laboratory management and quasi-legal areas, especially in the patent field." He and wife Jean travel and find time to spend with their three children. Check out his picture in the 50th reunion book. (I assume he's the one on the left.) • **Robert De Lisser** retired after 33 years as a captain in the U.S. Naval Medical Corps, where he served as a surgeon. He mostly enjoys his leisure and local involvements on the gulf coast of the Florida Panhandle. • **Alan Frese** spent a week in the summer on Block Island with five friends (and two dogs). He continues to sail and has been involved with two worthy organizations: 1) The New England Society of New York, which provides scholarships to students in New England colleges; and 2) The Soldiers', Sailors', Marines', Coast Guard, and Airmen's Club, founded in 1919, which fulfills its mission as the only private organization in the New York area to provide accommodations at subsidized rates and club-type facilities for servicemen and servicewomen, military retirees, and veterans and their families visiting NYC. • **Marcie Garcia** lives in Tampa, Fla., but manages to escape with wife Betty to their tree farm in the Adirondacks. He sent some updates from the past year and a half. "In February 2011, while taking a few warm-up runs at West Mountain, a Midd Panther ski jacket went flying by. When I caught up with him at the bottom, it was Olympian Tommy Jacobs '51. What an afternoon—Fred Neuberger '50 stories, Olympics, war stories, Midd ski jumping, and incredible skiing. He was outskiing everyone on the hill. On December 31, 2011, Betty and I shuttered Bet-Mar Corp., our postretirement international fertilizer consulting company, and the fun began. In February 2012 our guys ski club plus one skied at the Snow Bowl: myself, son Dr. Michael '84, grandsons Michael Fernandez and Michael Garcia, daughter Sara Garcia McCormick '92, and guest extraordinaire Bill Skiff '54. In June Betty and I hosted high school graduation parties for grandchildren and in July we had an extended Garcia family reunion at the Villa Garcia Farm in the Adirondacks with 56 in attendance. In August we celebrated our 54th anniversary." They have kept in touch with **Dave** and **Jo-Jo Kittell Corey**. • **Bill Gray** retired from a translation company he founded a number of years ago called William Gray Enterprises. He lost wife Diane a few years ago but still lives in Sharpsburg, Md., where he raises Simmental cattle. (He also grows apples and grapes.) • **Frank Gianforti** retired from Xerox a number of years ago. Since he was not ready to retire, he took over the bookkeeping of an auto repair operation in Branford, Conn., where he and his wife have been living. He had fun doing it but is now really retired and is enjoying life on the Connecticut shore. • **Walter Griffin** is living in Brevard, N.C., with Gerri, his wife of well over 50 years. He spends less time traveling and more time reading. In 1990 he started reading every book by every male mystery writer from A through Z. He then continued with women mystery writers—also from A to Z. (And I thought I was an avid reader!) • **Alden Lank** lives in Hingham, Mass., with wife Connie. He retired 14 years ago and they are enthusiastic travelers. They enjoy cruises—mostly abroad, but they recently did a cruise from New York to Montreal. They built a chalet in Switzerland in 1979 when they were living there and they gather with their extended family every Christmas. He also has time to concentrate on his longtime hobby of bird-watching and nature photography. • **Earl Samson** writes that he and wife Susan are selling Sakonnet Vineyards. After 25 years developing the brand name and enjoying a wonderful lifestyle in Little Compton, R.I., they are headed for retirement—"finally!" • As your class correspondent, I have enjoyed reaching out to our classmates and will continue to e-mail and call more of you. • We are sorry to report that several of our classmates have passed away: **Willard Gamble** on June 6, **Catherine Sexton Eckhof** on June 24, **Robert Studley** on August 7, and **William Admirand** on October 5. Our sympathy goes to their families. • On a positive note, as we near our next decade in 2013, we would very much like to hear from you about your reflections on turning 80. Please just send us an e-mail.

—Class Correspondents: John M. Baker (jmbaker@bestweb.net), 76 Spooner Hill Rd., South Kent, CT 06785; Sally Dickerman Brew (sdbrew1@mindspring.com), 629 Benvenue Ave., Los Altos, CA 94024.

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Classmates are keeping busy, or enjoying the quieter side of life. From Shrewsbury, Vt., **Hull Maynard** writes, "A very busy summer at High Pastures B&B. We had major parts of two weddings at our farm. One included 175 people that came in 45 cars, which parked on various parts of the farm according to 'infirmities.' They danced until midnight and had a wonderful time. Anybody interested can find our website. I play tennis in the early a.m. three times a week with a very challenging group of 12 players. Taffy (Joanna Taft Maynard '58) and I enjoy our five grandchildren, especially playing tennis with them on our court." Hull called me (**Judy**) on the phone and we chatted about the damage from Storm Irene one year ago, which is still very evident all over Vermont. • From **Ron Potier** we heard, "I continue to read and attend events surrounding the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. I've learned more history than I ever did in Sleepy Davidson's class!" He was hoping to see classmates at Homecoming, which was an important date for him as it was the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Dissipated Eight. • **Mimi Schwarz Reed** writes, "In August I visited **Marian Moran Brownlie** at her beautiful waterfront home on Shelter Island, N.Y., as I do every year. We enjoyed many activities on the North and South Forks of Long Island. During dinner at the Shelter Island Yacht Club with Marian's daughter, Heather, Middlebury came up in the conversation as we enjoyed the sunset, sailboats, and the water. Marian and I send greetings to our classmates." • **Dick Powell** plays a very significant role in his large community and describes it this way. "I head up a group of 74 emergency volunteers in my community of 3,000 active adults. In May a fellow golfer collapsed on our community's golf club practice range. No breath. No movement. Bystanders knew he needed CPR but didn't know how. They knew to call 911, but their cell phone didn't work. Someone ran a quarter mile to make the call. A pro-shop employee drove down with an automated external defibrillator (AED), tried CPR, but failed to use the AED. Fire and rescue arrived over 10 minutes after Jim fell. They took over but five days later, he died. A close buddy of Jim's asked me to start classes on CPR and using the AED. We purchased mannequins and an AED training device for hands-on training. Over the course of two months I taught CPR and AED to 250 neighbors in 20 separate sessions. The pace has subsided but we continue to teach these life-saving skills. We charge nothing for the training and give no certificates. We've been supported by two superb DVDs produced by the Univ. of Arizona, which instruct the 'continuous chest compressions only' form of CPR. No rescue breaths. Google the UofA website. We are all 'in the zone' and should know how to do these skills." Great dedication and important work. • **Betty Mitchell Munisoglu** writes, "After fighting with serious medical issues for the last several years, my husband of 53 years passed away in May. In his prime he was a life force to be reckoned with, and he enriched my life in countless ways. I miss him greatly. I'm still working full time as a court commissioner and watching with dismay as the California state budget crisis wreaks havoc on the state courts and adversely impacts the court's ability to administer justice. When not in court I am a volunteer with the Constitutional Rights Foundation, coaching a local high school mock trial team (the kids are amazing!). I also continue the nonprofit named after my son, who died of cancer at 14. Our current focus is on supporting development of a Teen and Young Adult Cancer Center program at UCLA—the first of its kind in the U.S. It was inspired by the success of the Teenage Cancer Trust in the U.K. and is also supported by Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend (The Who) of rock star fame. So, as life goes on I am doing my best to do well by doing good! My warmest regards to you and Dick. Thanks for doing such a diligent job of reaching out and keeping up!" • Check page 68 to see an interesting autobiography by **Ron Lawson**! And check page 64 for a story about **Dick Powell**! • Dick and Judy send best wishes to you all.

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Ron '56 and **Kathy Platt Potier** enjoyed "Cousins Camp" with their three children, three children-in-law, and six grandchildren on Lake Sunapee, N.H. Swimming, tubing, waterskiing, and fishing were happy alternatives to the omnipresent electronic devices. They parted after seven days of togetherness still on speaking terms. • **Jane Smith Brekke** writes, "Son Kris made a reservation at north Lake Tahoe for a few days and that was wonderful. Darrell and I did two hikes along the Tahoe Rim Trail and then we all enjoyed the lake and activities around there. Kris, his wife, and their two sons were there also." • Your continuing co-correspondent **Gail Bliss Allen** writes, "After 50-plus years in Northern California, I have moved to Federal Way, Wash., to be near my son Caleb and his family. I'm in an assisted living facility within walking distance to the Silver Sneakers senior program at 24 Hour Fitness. The community center here has many activities and I volunteer as a math tutor. I'm still downsizing boxes of 'stuff.' If you get to the Seattle area, contact me at 206.212.6482. It was my pleasure to work with **Kathy Potier** for the past five years as co-correspondents. Your new class co-correspondent is **Barclay Johnson**, who will give a catch-up bio next time."

—Class Correspondents: Gail Bliss Allen (gballen@comcast.net), Emeritus at Steel Lake, 31200 23rd Ave. S, #308, Federal Way, WA 98003; Barclay Johnson (johnsonbarclay@optonline.net), 319 Thomaston Rd., Apt. 65, Watertown, CT 06795.

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REUNION CLASS We all owe **Ann Ormsbee Frobose** a huge thank you as she signs off here as our longtime class correspondent: "Dear classmates, with some regret and some relief I bid you farewell as class correspondent. Our '58 news is in the good hands of **Sonny Wilder** and **Mary Roemmele Crowley**. From '58 to '68 **Phil (Ormsbee)** and I had the job. We sent you postcards to mail back to us. You were highly faithful in returning the cards. I remember rubber-banded stacks of them. I wish now that I had saved them to share some memories of those long ago Kennedy and Johnson years. Actually the news was chiefly babies and jobs. Then at our 25th reunion I joined **Joe Mohbat** for 29 more years of service. It has been an ongoing pleasure keeping track of our milestones and many travels (and grandchildren). Better than the news itself have been the phone calls with many of you. Our deep Middlebury roots make conversations lively. I spoke with **Ginny Davis Irwin** recently. She reminded me of Chaplain Scott's words as he welcomed us as freshmen. He described our many differences and ended 'but you all have one thing in common—you each chose Middlebury.' And therein grew a lasting bond we probably never expected." • **Lee Endres**, professor emeritus at Cal Poly, e-mailed us during a visit with **Margaret Lascelle Loghry** in Tucson, Ariz.—part of a bird-watching trip in the area—and said that he still continues to do a bit of teaching. And more than that—he still plays basketball! Last May he and wife **Valerie (Brown)** took their 11-year-old granddaughter on a trip to Spain, Italy, Santorini, and Athens. • Mona and **Dick Johnson** had challenged their two oldest grandsons to be reasonably fluent in Spanish by their senior year in high school. They complied, and the four spent last July exploring the history and architectural wonders of Spanish cities and countryside. Having the teenagers' perspectives proved an unexpected bonus. • **Chuck Rice** e-mails, "I'm still working and will be for the foreseeable future in the sports and entertainment insurance business. Mary and I still live in Buffalo, N.Y., in the spring and fall. Summers are spent in Canada in the Muskoka region of Ontario. We have a home on a large island, a family compound, which has been a haven for the family for over 60 years. I can easily work from there, which I do until about noon each day, then relax with waterskiing, knee boarding, odd maintenance jobs, and flying a float plane with one of my friends. Winters are spent on Jupiter Island in Florida, working from there as well. Last winter I took flying trapeze lessons and am continuing them this winter as well, along with high-wire lessons. Totally far out experience! (Check out the online story at http://blogs.middlebury.edu/middmag/2012/09/12/still-in-the-game/.) Some of us old folks go to the early bird dinner specials, and some of us, well, do other things—you've got to stay in the game. Daughter Joan '88 lives in Buffalo across the street from us and son Graham '97 lives in Burlington, Vt. My brother Randy '53 lives in East Lincoln, Vt. We make annual trips to Vermont and always include Middlebury—it's a nice homecoming for all of us. I plan on being at our 55th." • **Frank Hurt** writes, "March 2012 found me in Oberwiesenthal, Germany, for the Masters World Cup in cross-country skiing, where I competed in both the classic and freestyle disciplines in the 75–79 age group. John Brodhead '66 and wife Gina Campoli were also part of the U.S. team, competing in their age groups. With the paucity of snow last winter, training for most of the U.S. contingent was daunting. However, John, as the ski director at Craftsbury's (Vt.) Nordic center, Gina, and I, 10 minutes from Gunstock's (N.H.) Nordic center, all benefitted from snowmaking. Lucky we three! In January, at weekly time trials in the Mt. Washington Valley I became reacquainted with Betsy Strong Kent '53. In other Midd connections, in 2011 I tried to find the '58 cross-country ski team, winner of the NCAAs for that event, to invite their company for Germany. Sadly, none were available, and one, **Helge Kjekshus**, had died of Alzheimer's in 2009, I discovered later. As Midd's address for Helge was inactive, I enlisted Google and a friend's Norwegian cousins in the search. Google found two people named Helge Kjekshus. One was in Tanzania nine years as a senior lecturer in political science at the Univ. of Dar es Salaam and the other is a concert pianist and has toured the world and U.S. to wide acclaim. The former was our Helge and the latter is his and wife Nadia's son! And, with thanks to the Norwegian cousins for Nadia's address, she sent this dated bulletin copy: *'Helge Kjekshus and Henning Kraggerud will perform Brahms' three sonatas for violin and piano at Middlebury College.'* Date 12/10/2004! Age group competition in road, mountain, and trail running has seen some recent success for me: a first place in the New England USATF Mountain Running Series and a second at Mt. Washington this past summer; plus a gold in 2011 and a gold and a bronze in 2010. My latest was a gold in Syracuse, September 30, 2012. *Running Times* magazine awarded me an honorable mention in the age group for 2011, which was very cool—to be in print with our age group phenoms—compared to whom I'm much slower. Each year I strap on my iron man Timex stopwatch and head to the track in an attempt to increase my foot speed for the fall road events. And, each year, I read the inevitable regressive lap times and fret. Yet, in spite of alpine ski racing to age 35 and running year-round since age 68, I am very thankful for original knee joints—my 'Menisci Advantage.' Lucky for me."

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Joel Boland survived his 75th birthday with a Derby Day party that featured the best mint juleps. He cooked for 75 friends featuring soused shrimp, guacamole, roast tenderloin, and "to-die-for" flourless chocolate cake. But after mint juleps, who cared? With wife Kati, he took a 46th anniversary road trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan: lots to see but miles between stops. • In May Dave and **Barbara Freeman Irving** enjoyed a two-week bicycle trip with Vermont Bicycle Tours in northern Italy, spending time in the Cinque Terre villages, and on Lakes Garda and Como. In July they watched their 50-year-old daughter, who was never athletic before age 44, complete her first full Ironman in Lake Placid, 140.6 total miles of swimming, biking, and running in just less than 17 hours. They found it to be another beautiful area, and quite close to Middlebury. • **Dave Collin** reports that with four joint replacements and compression of the spinal discs, he may have to revert to umpiring softball rather than playing. • **Carol Sippel Monsees** writes, "Husband Tull has Parkinson's disease and up until last fall was still playing a respectable game of golf—and we had a great winter in Naples, Fla. Things have changed quickly, however. I just sold our home of 48 years, the only home our kids have known. Tull's condition requires that he be in care 24/7, and so we are moving to an apartment in a beautiful hotel-style life care facility in nearby Evanston, Ill. This is the best thing I can figure out for us. I will keep the Florida condo in hopes some getaway weeks are possible, so check in if you are in that area. There is absolutely no tonic as good as friendship." • Joy and **Andy Montgomery** toured the Maritime Provinces of Canada. A 3,500-mile road trip over two weeks, leaving from their Ontario summer cottage, took them to Ottawa, St. John, Bay of Fundy, Halifax, Sydney, Cabot Trail, and

RONALD LAWSON '56

1 This Bavarian hat, acquired near Tirol in 1967, displays mementos from my mountain climbing, alpine skiing, and music and beer festivals. I was preparing for the Catholic priesthood near where I became Catholic in 1960 while in the U.S. Army.

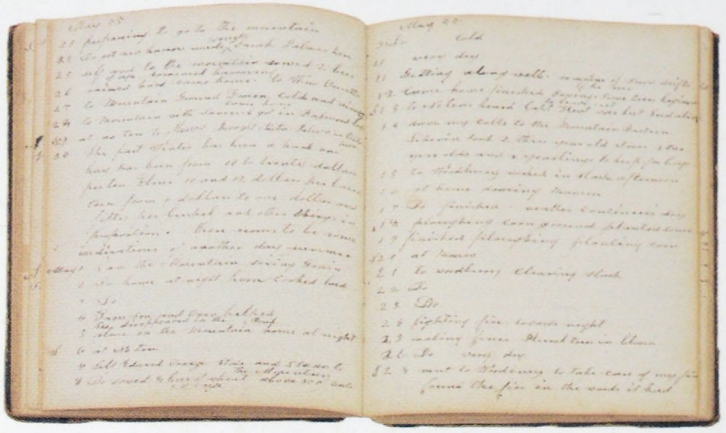
2 My great-great-grandfather George Washington Foster was an original settler of Calais, Vermont. This is one of his journals. Through Foster, I descend from a clergy person of note on the *Mayflower*, Elder William Brewster. I carry the bloodlines of two other *Mayflower* passengers: John Billington and Henry Samson. Bragging rights are limited on Billington since he was hanged for murder in 1631 in the Plymouth Colony!

3 The stein is from the NATO School in Germany, where I studied Polish and German in 1959 and 1960. Next, I was a counterespionage officer in West Berlin at the peak of the Cold War.

4 This rosary was obtained surreptitiously through an elderly nun at the Cathedral of Budapest in the 1980s during the harsh Communist times there. I recite the Rosary every day for those who suffer for their faith.

5 The smaller photo shows me as a young priest (right) with the bishop at the Parish of St. Mary's in Middlebury. The larger photo shows me celebrating Mass at St. Mary's.

6 This chalice was used at the Trapp Family Lodge chapel in Stowe, Vermont, for about 30 years, and was given to me by the Baroness Maria von Trapp, who was my mentor and inspiration while in the seminary.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY TODD BALFOUR

Charlottetown. They comment that the Maritimes are gorgeous. • A reminder, if any classmates will be in Florida in January, **Anne Martin Hartmann** and Andy will be hosting another mini-reunion, January date and location still to be determined. If interested in attending, contact Andy or Anne. • **Russ Miller**—where have you been, Russ?—and wife Doty celebrated their joint 50th wedding anniversary and 75th birthdays with a 35-day round-trip cruise from Boston (Voyage of the Vikings) with stops in Newfoundland, Labrador, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, Ireland, Faroe Islands, and Maine. They had sightings of whales, seals, icebergs, and beer mugs and some spectacular scenery. They report that the worst part of the trip was air flights between Florida and Boston. • As reported in the fall issue, **Pam Payne Lewis** was on campus in June to give a workshop on leadership, based on classes in presentation skills she teaches at Carnegie Mellon. She writes, "Meeting with Middlebury faculty and staff was exhilarating! In August I met again with Jon Isham (director of Middlebury's new Center for Social Entrepreneurship), Yonna McShane (director of Learning Resources), and Mike Kiernan (a Middlebury physician who also teaches persuasive speaking at the College). Other highs for the summer included a visit with **Nancy McKnight Smith** in her beautiful home on the Chesapeake, and a Waybury Inn dinner with Anne McKenzie Jourlait '60 and her husband, Daniel. And, of course, two trips to Maine to spend time with our granddaughters. Our sons, Peter and Kevin, are both active in health care. Peter, a clinical psychologist, has just accepted a position as the suicide prevention coordinator for the Dorn VA Hospital in Columbia, S.C. As its CEO, Kevin is helping to launch Maine Community Health Options, a truly nonprofit cooperative health insurance venture, which will start to enroll members the fall of 2013. Since we love working with students, Gordon and I continue to teach. But we're happy with our decision to retire from our house and move into apartment living at Longwood!" • **Bob Luce** and wife Bea attended the Nantucket Film Festival, which featured a film called *Beast of the Southern Wild*. They returned to Oshkosh, Wis., for the AirVenture, the largest general aviation fly-in in the world. On the way home, they stopped at Bea's hometown, Harrisburg, Ill. There they could see the damage caused by a 175-mile tornado that had hit last February 29. • **Earle** and **Betty Layer Hoyt** planned to celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary last June 9 in Yellowstone National Park.

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Susan and **Sherb Merrill** have been on the oceans. Last year they took a 28-day Pacific cruise to Hawaii and South Pacific Islands, ending in Sydney, Australia. Sherb felt younger because his birthday vanished from the ship's calendar when they crossed the International Date Line. This past spring they cruised across the Atlantic; Portugal, Barcelona, Rome, and on to Athens. Sherb noted that the Greeks, in a typically European way, did not seem concerned about their financial plight. • **Bernie Brodsky** is the author of *Death in Diyarbakir*. Available from online booksellers, the novel deals with Turkish-Kurdish tensions. Bernie drew on his extensive travels in Turkey and his experience as Far East counsel for a Fortune 50 Company. • **Jane Bryant Quinn** is doing weekly Q&As for Dimespring.com, a new personal finance website. One quote from a recent posting: "Personal finance isn't about arithmetic; it's about common sense. Do what feels right for your family and the numbers will follow." • In June **Angie Larossa Randall** visited with **Anne McKenzie Jourlait** in Aix-en-Provence. Anne then spent five weeks at the French Language School at Middlebury. She and **Josie Vogel Wolk** had lunch in Middlebury before Anne returned home to Aix. • Summer activities for **Dick "Tusker" Atkinson** have switched from being at the helm of his Starboat to being at the helm of the race committee's speedy Zodiac, used as a mark boat and crash boat for race management duties. Dick is also chair of the Protest Committee. He noted, "While the enjoyment and action of race competition is definitely missed, the pounding taken by the body is not. Ironically, however, the Zodiac delivers a good pounding at times." • **Helen Smith Folweiler-Chipman**, **Nancy Mumford Mulvey**, and **Rose Mary McDonough Natelson** met at the DeCordova Museum in Lincoln, Mass. The museum of contemporary New England Art has a large sculpture park. • **Lee Vancini** was a walking scorer for the 2012 PGA Championship on the famous Ocean Course at Kiawah Island Golf Resort. For three rounds (54 holes) he described and recorded the individual shots for three players. The highlight? Scoring for a young Korean pro, who shot the lowest round of the entire tournament, a 7 below par 65. Lee walked the equivalent of five miles in each round, sometimes in 25-mph winds, some in rain, and with temps near 90 degrees. The final highlight was having his grandson joining him as a standard bearer for two of the three rounds. • In January when **Marian Vaughan Strong** was in the ER of the small hospital in Whitefish, Mont., the on-call physician was named Sue Daniell. Marian told her she went to college with a Sue Daniell, pronounced the same way. The MD mentioned family in Vermont. Marian put the pieces together. Her doctor was the niece of Sue Daniell Phillips '58. Small world.

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Betsy Hawley Greenman reports, "Last April I had the immense pleasure of going for two weeks to Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain, with my son who is a voice, speech, dialect professor at Meadows School of the Arts, SMU, Dallas. He went to teach and explore student-exchange possibilities with L'Institut del Teatre de Barcelona. Our apartment was in the Eixample District, which provided easy walking to La Pedrera, the famous home designed by Gaudí, and, of course, to the amazing La Sagrada Família. Barcelona's mixture of ancient and modern, the ease of metro and trains to the countryside, and the amazing food only heightened the time together. We spent Easter at Montserrat, rode funicular railways, and hiked down a trail where we could see the Pyrenees in the distance. We trained to Figueres to marvel and giggle in the Salvador Dalí museum, and trained to the ancient town of Altafulla, where we walked on the sand of the Mediterranean and enjoyed friends. And of course, we 'rambled' on the Ramblas." Betsy continues as a vocation coach and faculty team member for conferences sponsored by the Episcopal Church Pension Group. This year her conferences have been in Louisiana and in Prescott, Ariz. Betsy reported that she was not excited about the alligator sausage in Louisiana, but loved the prickly pear cactus leaves and jelly in Arizona. • **Roger Christian** returned to Cange, Haiti, where he had spent a week last year prior to our reunion. Cange is the small town in the highland plateau where Paul Farmer started the first hospital for Partners in Health (PIH) some 25 years ago. Roger reports, "Whereas in 2011 I participated in only two operations and saw several patients in the clinic, this trip was much more productive. I assisted two Haitian surgeons operating on a much larger number of women with breast cancer. But the more important focus was to outline the parameters for the medical and surgical care of women presenting at varying stages of this terrible disease. These were established by a group of colleagues and me from the Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, in conjunction with PIH. But perhaps the best part of this trip was to visit the state-of-the-art teaching hospital soon to be opened in Mirebalais, about an hour from Port-au-Prince. It is my hope to spend a longer period of time there this next year teaching medical students and surgical residents. Having known Paul Farmer since he was a medical student, and having witnessed the commitment and work of so many people in the organization, let me assure everyone that donated funds are being used in a most responsible fashion for some of the world's most neediest people." Roger is still working four-plus days a week and still loving what he does. • **Pepi Connal** reports he and wife Ruth (BU '61) keep chugging along. They spend six weeks on the east end of Grand Cayman most winters and were looking forward to it again this winter. Scuba diving, sometimes with teenage grandchildren, is one of their favorite activities. This past summer they cruised Narragansett Bay, ending up for a week at Block Island. Pepi reports, "We crossed over to the Dark Side a few years back and are now in a Tolleycraft 44. We get there faster, although with the cost of fuel, a wee bit more expensively." •

ClassActs

Lois Ryman Lewis had a good summer traveling to places she had wanted to visit. She and her California daughter Kathy flew to Orlando to meet up with the Virginia daughter Jenny and Jenny's four children. They visited the Wizarding World of Harry Potter complete with Hogwarts, drinking "butter beer," and seeing Diagon Alley. Cape Canaveral and the Kennedy Space Center were also on the itinerary. Lois found the Space Center amazing to see with the technology and inspiration for generations to come. The trip ended in Haymarket, Va., with more family time. Lois was also able to visit with **Donna MacPherson** and husband Tom while in Virginia. Not content to stay home, Lois and Kathy spent 12 days on a Viking River Cruise in China. They toured Beijing, seeing Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Summer Palace, rode in a rickshaw, climbed the Great Wall, visited Xian and the Terra Cotta Warriors, cruised along the Yangtze River, stopping at Wuhan, and ended up in Shanghai, where they walked along the Bund. Lois said this trip was a wonderful experience with an informative tour guide. They enjoyed not having to worry about luggage, checking into their hotels, or getting boarding passes from the time they arrived in Beijing until they departed from Shanghai. Lois writes that she found China to be a fascinating country. "I was amazed at the number of people and the number of high-rise buildings in the cities. It seems as though China is going through a transition period—young people are leaving the country for the cities. China does a wonderful job of preserving their culture and relics from the past." • Traveling closer to home, **Linny Faxon** and wife Diane joined **John Moser** and wife Joanie and **Rick** and **Carol Zuck Cahoon** on Cape Cod for the 75th birthday celebration of Pieter Schiller '60 in August. • We received word of the death on August 1 of classmate **Forrest McCarthy**. We extend our condolences to wife Bonnie and family. An obituary will appear in a future issue.

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Here are some notes from those unable to attend reunion. **Sarah Howland Braddock** said they went to husband Bob's 50th last year at Middlebury and it was wonderful to be back and to see people. "Sadly, this year I was having spine surgery so we had to miss reunion." • **Anne Bossi Kiefer** said, "We have been living on Cape Cod since leaving Yale graduate school—doing some theater, some retail—and have raised three daughters. I'm now managing a nonprofit consignment thrift shop in Orleans, enjoying the beaches, the shellfish, and a laid-back lifestyle and serving on the board of the Cape Cod Opera. We present live opera annually here on the Cape. That's 50 years in a nutshell." • After 38 years of living in Boston's South End and seeing it evolve from a transitional neighborhood to a vibrant place, **Judith Clarke Grohe** and husband Stephen moved to Newburyport, Mass., in 2005 and closed the B&B they had operated from 1990–2005. Judith is now involved in her church and politics in that little city where individuals can make a difference so much more easily than in Boston. They would welcome Middlebury visitors to their historic coastal city. • From Brazil **Bill Ballou** wrote, "I have lived here for the past 12 years and really enjoy what Rio de Janeiro has to offer. I still maintain a beach house in Weekapaug, R.I., which my children and grandchildren benefit from in the summer months. Last summer I hosted a Middlebury student, who was doing an internship at the American Consulate. Very interesting for me. His dad works for the Voice of America in Moscow and he has a twin brother also at Middlebury." • **Diane Alpern Parente** sent a life update: "I received a master's in political science, was married in 1963, had nine children (1965–81), and lived in Arlington, Va., while at Georgetown, where I was a University Fellow and research assistant to Eleanor Lansing Dulles. We lived in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and Scranton, Pa., while my husband taught at various colleges. I was divorced in 1986. I moved to San Diego in 2003 (adult children and grandchildren there), then moved to North Port, Fla., in 2012. I'm living with my youngest daughter's family (with my youngest grandson). Aside from raising nine wonderful children (who have given me 12 equally fantastic grandchildren), I was very active in the Pennsylvania pro-life movement, edited their state newspaper, worked for the Diocese of Scranton, wrote four church histories and numerous freelance articles, organized and ran an outreach to the elderly program in my Scranton parish, and participated in several other ministries. It all looks so simple written down in black and white but it's been (and still is) a great life!" • We got some news briefs from **John** and **Judy Weihe Furlow**: John recently retired as dean emeritus of Ohio University's Lancaster Campus and Judy retired from teaching high school English. "We kicked off retirement by taking a trip to Russia to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. I'm sure we would have had fun reminiscing at reunion. We got engaged at the Waybury Inn, which would have been a great place to stay, but our grandson's graduation from Willamette College in Oregon plus some festivities surrounding our retirements kept us from being able to attend." • **Sandy Schwartz** *was* at reunion but had this to add: "After I left Middlebury I went to Columbia to get an MA in history and deferred my admission to do international law at the Univ. of Virginia. I lived in New York with **Vic Micati**, **Nick Calise**, and **John Hose** and liked grad school so much that I stayed for a PhD in Latin American history. My research took me mostly to Spain, Portugal, and Brazil, and I took a position at the Univ. of Minnesota in the Twin Cities and stayed there for almost 30 years as professor and chair, spending lots of time in Latin America (Mrs. Centeno would be proud) and publishing mostly on Brazil where I taught at various times. In 1992 I remarried, and when a good invitation came from Yale in 1996, I was ready to come back to New England (and Maria, my wife who is from Puerto Rico was ready to get out of the Minnesota winters). We have both been at Yale for about 15 years where I direct the Latin American Studies Council, run a graduate program, and where I did a five-year stint as master of one of the Yale residential colleges. We spend a lot of our time traveling, writing, and I spend as much time with my tennis that my knees will allow. My two kids both work in New York in the fashion industry and there are two grandkids so we are often in the city. Retirement? Maybe some time soon."

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REUNION CLASS More than two dozen classmates gathered at Bread Loaf for the Alumni Leadership Conference (ALC) in late September to finalize details for our 50th reunion, June 6–9. Please make sure you read upcoming newsletters from our co-chairs and answer the phone if one of our workers calls. Most requests are not for money. Often we are seeking ideas and background information. HELP! If you can. **Susan Washburn Buckley** and **Jane Bachelder Johnson** kept the Yearbook Committee working long hours until the Monday afternoon after ALC. • **Susan Buckley** reports that her NYC life has changed a bit. She has relinquished her gavel as president of NYC Central Park Paws, the organization (6,000 members) she founded 13 years ago, which has made it possible for dogs during the day to run leash free in the park. • **Jim McKeown**, our outreach chairman, is in the throes of promoting informal mini-reunions across the country. The most recent occurred November 4 at the home of Chuck and **Joanne Fay Gibson** in Concord, Mass., orchestrated by **Meg Holmes Robbins**, **Lyn Wilkins Green**, and **John Angier**. Attendees were **Chuck** and **Sue Handy Burdick**, **Bill Delahunt**, **Charlie Buell** and wife Sybil, **Linda Patton Mengers** and husband John, **Dave Arnold** and wife Andra Crawford, **Dick Schlesinger**, **Barbara Schwer Wenzel** and husband Dick, **Susannah Chalmers Deacon**, **Doug Crandall**, and **Dick Floyd** and wife Kathy. A thank you goes to all for making the effort. Reports are that it was a really fun time. Let's help Jim keep the momentum flowing. • Other news from near and far: **Cathy Tilden Howell** has taken up residence at Wake Robin in Shelburne, Vt., and word has it that she is the youngest lady there. Also, her daughter was married nearby on November 12, so she has the title of mother-in-law. • **Sandy Zuccarelli Gasbarro**, we are told, will be unable to join us for reunion due to her wedding anniversary and the 18th birthday of a grandson. • **Arnie Levinson** assures us that he will be in attendance. • **Mark Aldrich** has retired from Smith College as an economics professor, but relates that he is often called back to duty to teach one course each semester. • **Dave Heacock** and wife Corky still ski at Gore Mountain,

日本校の学生は、文化ポートフォリオという授業の活動の一つとして　稲刈り　の体験学習をし、お昼御飯には、焼き魚、白いご飯、野菜とお漬物をいただいた。汗を流した後の食事の味は、また格別である。

sometimes with one or more of their 10 grandchildren! They report that they maintain contact with Kathy and **Steve Wilkerson**. • **Neil Savage** relates that he has been a Girl Scout volunteer for 26 years, focusing on environmental care of New England's shore lands. Super storm Sandy must have been quite an example to deal with. • **Dave** and **Mary Leslie Hanscom** continue to take daily hikes in the mountains surrounding Salt Lake City. They report that **John Bower** and wife Bonnie have moved from Maine to Moab, Utah, where John is very much involved in assisting the U.S. ski team prepare for the 2014 Winter Olympics. • Living in Canada, **Dave Margoshes** has come out with a new book entitled *A Book of Great Worth.* A collection of linked stories, he tells of his father's life as a reporter and columnist on a daily Yiddish newspaper covering the labor beat during the 1920s and '30s on NYC's Lower East Side. The book was picked to be on Amazon.ca's Best Books of the Year So Far list. • June 6–9 is creeping up on us. Stay in tune! Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/middleburycollege, ably managed by **Liam English** (a lot of great photos there!). Also assist **Jim McKeown** (jim@fewerworries.biz) with informal gatherings. As always, suggestions are welcome: **Betty Ann Cooper Kane** (bettyannkane@sprintmail.com), **Meg Holmes Robbins** (mthrob@comcast.net), **Chuck Burdick** (cburdick@shoreham.net), **Sabin Streeter** (ss1179@columbia.edu) or us at the addresses below.

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Correspondent **Pam Nottage Mueller** reports: As I write this column I have just returned home from a spectacular Middlebury trip to Alaska, visiting both Denali National Park (we were lucky to see Mt. McKinley most days!) and Southeast Alaska's Inside Passage. There were 15 or so folks from Midd, representing classes from 1961–1972. In addition, Prof. David West (geology dept.) joined us to share his expertise on this very "rocky" part of the world. The group was great, the sights and activities even better. Because New Hampshire has such a short summer we rarely leave Lake Winnipesaukee, but this trip was well worth it. • As she appreciates the present, **Claire Waterhouse Gargalli** reflects on the past. "After 26 years in the commercial banking business in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, I was in the executive search business for eight years, retiring in 1998. Since then I have been on several large corporate boards, currently Baker Hughes in Houston and Praxair in Danbury, Conn. That, along with some not-for-profit boards, keeps me pretty busy. In 2001 my husband, David Carley, and I moved to Charlottesville, Va. This is a lovely town with many interesting people and of course the Univ. of Virginia. Sadly in 2009 David died, but friends and family have been wonderful and I enjoy my garden and my precious dog, Jackson. I have a small summer cottage on the family property in Maine, and Jackson and I walk in the woods, see family, and escape the Virginia heat." • **Kit Telfair Wright** sent this update: "After 20 years in South Jersey by the beach, which followed about 25 years in Vermont, I and husband Charlie Wood retired, sold the house, and moved to Austin, Texas, in October 2011! For those who have not done it in a while, downsizing and moving long distance is not for the faint of heart. But we made it, with help from many corners. Sadly, Charlie died in early March after many years of poor health. So I am starting over in Texas, near family (daughter Cindy and 9-year-old granddaughter in Austin and my brother in Houston) and warmer weather in the winter. New doctors, highways, stores, libraries, volunteer jobs, license plates, and hobbies take up some time, and I am now able to be Nana Kit for Naomi, a job I love. Austin is noted for its music scene, as well as its slightly offbeat approach to life, and with the help of the younger folks, I am trying to fit in. Mackie, a sweet Sheltie dog, and I are living in an apartment with a yard, much easier than a four-bedroom, two-story house on a corner with lots of leaf-losing trees and sidewalks to shovel! My other daughter Beth, her 11-year-old son, and her husband live in Vermont, so I will be making my way back there periodically. Hope to see everyone at our 50th reunion in 2014. Meanwhile, if anyone is visiting Austin, please stop to say howdy." • Correspondent **Bob Baskin** reports: **Jim Doane** may have grown up in the Washington, D.C., area, graduated from Middlebury as an economics major, then completed his PhD at Tufts, but he's spent the majority of his career in California. You may be wondering how this East Coaster made it all the way across country. Turns out he was teaching energy economics at the University of Maine, when someone decided to impose an oil embargo on the U.S. in 1973. Remember the gas lines? Turns out the Jet Propulsion Lab, the only NASA center run by a university (Caltech), realized that much of the work they were doing on alternative energy might be more commercially viable if they better understood what role economics played with consumers. And Caltech/JPL were wise enough to believe that economists could provide some of those needed insights. In 1974, JPL brought in Jim and several other economists and other social scientists. Jim retired from JPL in 2008. When asked how he made the leap from straight economics to alternative energy and even to some time working on the Space Station, Jim credits not only the economics discipline of his doctoral program but also the liberal arts education he acquired at Middlebury that broadened his perspective and honed his critical analytic skills. Jim lives in California with his wife of five years and has two very accomplished children from a previous marriage. Daughter Rebecca is a cardiologist in Oakland, and his younger son a lawyer in NYC. His older son, Randall, was lost in an accident 20 years ago. In retirement, Jim enjoys time spent with family and friends, photography, reading, cycling, golf, and a little bit of skiing. He recalled a nice experience related to our 25th reunion. Driving to Middlebury for that gathering, Jim happened to meet **Ian Sanderson** at the Snow Bowl. They had not seen each other in 25 years and had not really kept in touch after freshman year. But they conversed easily about what they'd been doing since Middlebury and about life lessons from the '60s, '70s, and '80s. Since both were living in the D.C. area at the time, they saw each other a few times over the following year. Having caught up with the previous decades, conversation switched to the present and future, and was just as satisfying. The experience showed Jim how much we '64s have in common. No matter from where we came to Middlebury, or where our lives took us after, we all chose the same college, had many of the same classes and professors, and have now lived through the same (nearly) five succeeding decades. Now if that heady thought inspired Jim at the 25th, think about what's going to happen at our 50th!

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Mindy Wright Colquitt writes, "Wayne and I are both fine as we turn 70 and realize how fortunate we are. We have just one grandchild, age 2. **Carol Dickerman** has just retired and moved back to Ann Arbor after four years working in Chicago." • **Francis Love** has made many trips back to Vietnam and to Nhon Duc in particular. In a recent e-mail he wrote, "In 1998 I returned to Vietnam for the first time since the war as a member of a team of veterans riding bicycles from Hanoi to Saigon. Since then, I have been able to return approximately every two years to present scholarships to promising students and at one point to donate some computers to the new school in Nhon Duc." In April 2012 he returned, this time to work with veterans on building homes in the Delta with Habitat for Humanity. After that he planned to return to Nhon Duc to present another round of scholarships and, hopefully, provide additional computers for the school. • We all can take pride in our classmate **Randy Brock**, who lost a hard-fought bid to unseat Vermont's incumbent governor this past fall. Randy received over 100,000 votes, nearly 38 percent of the total number cast. Remember the benches in front of the Dog Team Restaurant? One was over 20-feet long and labeled *Republicans*; the other, a love seat labeled *Democrats*. Those benches no longer exist but if they did, the labels would have to be reversed. In fact, Vermont's electoral votes were the very first to be declared in the Obama column.

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ClassActs

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Having just taken part in his 50th high school reunion, **Steven Perry** took a few minutes to catch us up on what he's been doing since retirement. "After about 15 years as an itinerant biomedical researcher and university teacher in the area of the zoology and human/comparative anatomy in Germany, England, and Canada, I managed to land a professorship at the University of Bonn, Germany, in 1994. During that time, I was active in the area of respiratory biology with frequent trips to Brazil, where I collaborated with groups in the state of São Paulo. After organizing two international meetings in the area of respiratory biology, our group is now forming an international society for respiratory science, which focuses on everything having to do with respiration: from climatology and the origin of oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere to botanical, zoological, and medical applications." Since retirement in 2009, Steve has been focusing more on music, art, and literature. While in Brazil he learned to play the Brazilian 10-stringed guitar and is now co-organizer of a folk music club in Bonn, where he sometimes performs. He also sings in choral groups, including a seniors singing/acting group that performs at the municipal theater. Steve's looking forward to our 50th reunion in 2016! • **Liza Dunbar Koven** still has most of the same interests she had at Middlebury. Among her new interests: "Absolute best thing is eight grandchildren, many on the West Coast so lots of travel." Liza continues, "Sad about classmates deaths, but we're all gettin' on! The 70s do loom—college 50th(!) in four years still seems a long way off." • "Not sure where I left off so I'll go back a ways," writes **Joyce Smith Mills**. In a career change, Joyce enjoyed being a certified financial planner until her retirement in January 2010. Having sold her vacation house on Cape Cod in 2008, she took some wonderful trips from the proceeds—Australia, Spain, Turkey, and Uganda and Kenya in particular. Both of her daughters are now married, with the oldest working as an infectious disease physician/researcher in Kenya and the youngest living in southern New Hampshire and working in the investment field in Boston. Joyce writes that they "both had unusual weddings, my youngest getting married at a plantation in Kentucky without any of the traditional trappings and my oldest marrying in Uganda in both a Western ceremony and a traditional Ugandan Kwanjula ceremony where we all dressed in traditional attire. The groom's family was introduced to us and brought us many presents. A good time was had by all at both ceremonies!" Joyce keeps busy with courses in the Osher program at Tufts, chamber music concerts, working with a personal trainer, making jewelry, and doing things with friends. She sees **Shirley Frobes** frequently in spite of their living on opposite coasts. "Shirley and husband Steve came to Uganda in 2011 for my daughter's wedding there, and we have met in Seattle and New Hampshire since that time. My youngest daughter is named for her, and both of them are married to Steves, which makes for complicated conversations!" • **Judith Engle Hishikawa** was featured on a blog called "Just Genesis" recently in a conversation about the Nile-Japan Ainu connection. She was familiar with the Ainu of Japan but not with their Nilotic ancestors and sought information from the blog. She is a former volunteer for missions with the Episcopal Church in Japan. • Please visit and join our Class of 1966 *group page* available from www.facebook.com/middleburycollege. Prue has written some directions: 1) You need to have an account with Facebook. Go to facebook.com and create an account plus password; 2) Once you have an account and are logged into Facebook, use the top "search" window in Facebook to find our group. Type Middlebury College Class of 1966—that will take you to the correct group page; 3) You need to JOIN the group. This means you need to submit a request. Look for Join Group on the right under the photos and click on it. **Francine Clark Page** will get a request to add you to the group; 4) Once you are in the group, you can upload photos, post messages, etc. There are a lot of great photos there already to see!

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Correspondent **Susie Davis Patterson** reports: Alumni College this year might have been the best educational experience of my life. I took Robert Frost and His Mountains—great subject matter and locale to be sure. But it was the truly gifted and extraordinary talents of our Middlebury professor emeritus, John Elder, who ran a seminar for 46 of us (many of whom brought the richness of personal encounters with Frost to our discussions) and encouraged and supported and validated our ideas and responses to our close readings of Frost, while broadening our vision with references to Eliot, Wordsworth, Milton, and Shakespeare and, not least, his personal stories, that made this a peak life experience. I was happy I had persuaded one classmate at reunion—**Marion Boultbee**—to join me this August. Then I was delightfully surprised on day one to hear an Alumni College participant introduce himself as **Ed Hann** of the Class of '67. Ed and I did not know each other at Middlebury, although we discovered that we shared a major. Ed was gracious enough to say that he thought he had heard of me; I was smart enough not to ask what he had heard. After Middlebury, Ed went to divinity school in Washington, D.C., and then spent his career as a Methodist minister in New Jersey. Daughter Jennifer, who graduated from Middlebury in '95, had brought her dad to Alumni College because, he claimed, "she feared my brain would turn to mush after I retired." Not to worry: Ed was a great contributor to our group and was the subject of much lobbying by me to come to our next reunion. Of course, each Alumni College class group sang the praises of their professors at each communal meal in the Bread Loaf Inn. Five courses are offered the last weekend of each August. Marion joins me in saying you really owe it to yourself to come join us next year. You'll be raising your glass to us in thanks at the 5:30 cocktail hour on the lawn each afternoon. • Another fantastic Women of '67 (Wof67) gathering was held September 8–10 in Hope and South Bristol, Maine. Our weekend was special in locale for sure (our first in Maine), but also, as always, in the spirit and community created by the coming together of 21 wonderful women of our class, with our richness of life experiences and the continuing friendship bonds between us. **Barb McEvoy Bentley** did an amazing job of organizing and hosting us at her heart-of-Maine deep woods home with swimming lake, sauna, hiking trails, aerie tree house, and tenting meadow. The weekend started out with a high point of all our gatherings. **Jana Mara Holt** arrived at the Camden dock for our sunset Schooner Olad sail with our first-ever Midd man interloper, **Jon Coffin**! Jon and Jana are such a great example of why classmates should come back to every reunion. Thanks to the two of them for reminding us of the breadth and depth of our Middlebury class pool, and that maybe there are Midd "firsts" still to come in some of our lives. We wish them fun and happiness together. And then on Sunday we got to go to Bob and **Dee Martin Montgomery**'s pristine, coast of Maine, gorgeous new home to share a delicious, traditional lobster and clam bake. Our beach cook, Skip, was delightful and his downeast accent gave us an over-the-top Maine experience. We celebrated five first-timers to Wof67: **Ramsey Ludlow**, **Roxanne McCormick Leighton**, **Faith Cohoon Leonard**, **Barb Bentley**, and **Dee Montgomery**. Others in attendance were **Margot Childs Cheel**, **Kathie Towle Hession**, **Jana Holt**, **Joanne Hall Johnston**, **Carol Collin Little**, **Jervis Lockwood Anderson**, **Sue Rugg Parmenter**, **Karen Unsworth**, **Marion Boultbee**, **Judy Pierpont**, **Patty Ramsey**, **Cathy Clement**, **Gert Jones Como**, **Freddie Mahlmann**, **Lee Powers Smith**, and me (**Susie**). The history of this group is remarkable: 46 women from our class have attended one or more gatherings since we started in 1991. There are 119 women currently in our class so that means well over a third of us have participated. We hope to include many more, and next fall **Sue Parmenter** will host us at her family property, Rugg Haven, in East Cornith, Vt. E-mail Sue (loghome@tops-tele.com) to be put on the e-mail group list.

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REUNION CLASS New correspondent **Betty Austin Henderson** reports: **Barbara Ensminger Stoebenau**, after many years of dedicated service as one of our class correspondents, has finally twisted my arm and convinced me to take her place. I have become aware of how little news I have sent over the years to keep in touch with all of you and to assist Barbara

and Ben in their responsibilities. So I will start off by an update on what I have been up to and hope that many of you will follow suit. At this point in my life, I find it especially gratifying to reconnect with longtime friends and to see how we have all changed and how we have remained who we were in college. I have just finished a two-year term as president of our local AAUW branch. This reawakened my desire to make a difference in the world of women's issues, but it was a big job and I'm ready for a rest. To celebrate, this past summer we did a lot of traveling and it's nice to have the time to do that. Husband Don and I just returned from a Middlebury Alumni Association trip to Alaska, cruising the Inside Passage on a small ship—only 36 passengers. There were lots of opportunities for hiking and kayaking and viewing the wildlife and glaciers. In addition, we had professors from Middlebury (Dave West, geology) and from Duke to help us understand what we were seeing. Meanwhile, back in the Texas heat, I enjoy gardening, bird-watching (especially the hummingbirds), reading (two book clubs), my dream interpretation group, and our local 'Real Food' dinner group (gourmet potluck dinners featuring produce from our own gardens and the local co-op). I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at reunion next spring. • Your other class correspondent, **Ben Gregg**, has now retired from EPA. One of the real reasons was that his grandchildren (Alden at three years, three months and Caroline at one year, five months) were coming east with their parents from Kansas for a six-week visit, and Ben did not want to get up in the morning and go to work, leaving them behind all day! Plus, as with other classmates, 66 is "old enough to retire!" • Speaking of which, Ben just got word from his junior year roommate, **Conrad Ambrette**, that he also is retiring, closing down his 60-year-old law firm, so the process will take some few months but has been initiated. Speaking of which, **Kathy Mason Lindsay** and Conrad are proud to initiate their married life together, after many years of dating! Conrad writes, "Kathy and I were married (finally!) on August 25. Kathy was my Carnival date freshman year and we reconnected 30 years later. We had a strong Middlebury contingent at our wedding at my family's home in Grafton, Vt.: Kathy's twin sister, **Linda Mason**; their younger sister, Julie Mason Lacey '77; my two sons, Brian '02 and Eric '04; **Tobi Gray Watson**; and David '69 and **Magna Leffler Dodge**. I will hopefully close down my law practice soon and then move up to Middlebury (where Kathy has lived for the past 30 years). This year will be busy, with each of us selling our respective houses and then buying our house. Makes me tired just thinking about it." We all send them best wishes for this next phase of their life. Are there any other reports of retirements and/or exciting reports of nuptials? • Don't forget that reunion weekend is June 7–9. Let's try to reconnect before then on our Middlebury Facebook page. You need to join Facebook first then go to www.facebook.com/middleburycollege, click on Class Groups, and find 1968!

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Anne Harris Onion remains immersed in her school year job as high school guidance counselor, as well as grandmother of darling twin two-year-olds, gardener, political worrier, woods wanderer with golden retriever, and reader for the 36th year of her book group. "As sad news of loss of our classmates comes more often, I am grateful for each day! However, I'm feeling very remiss in the news-gathering department. If anyone out there would be able to devote more time to class correspondent, please speak up! And do write Peter or myself with your news in this watershed year as most of us go on Medicare. Are you still working? What are you doing with retirement? What have you learned in this past year? Join the Class of 1969 Facebook page, especially in anticipation of our 45th reunion in 2014!"

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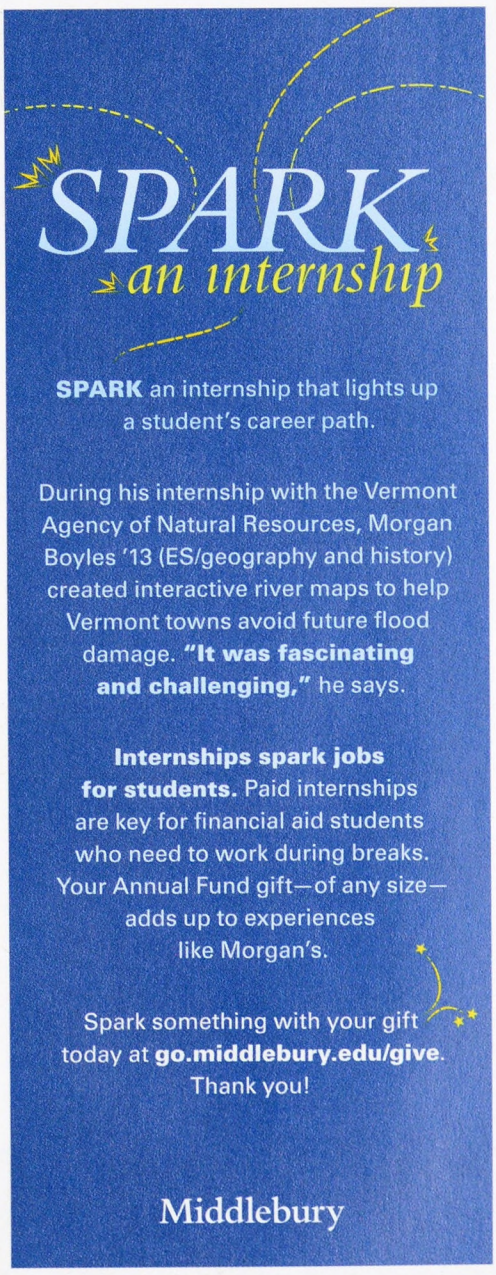
Diantha Bartlett Howard writes, "Our son got married last June—two family weddings in one year! We feel very fortunate that both kids are living in Burlington, Vt., so we are able to see them often. We enjoyed seeing Rick '72 and Lindy Frew Brownell '72 when we were in Maine last summer." • **Debby Gaines Monroe** writes, "I went to the 10th reunion of the Class of '02 with daughter Jessica '02 and son-in-law Will Vaughan '01 so I could be the nanny for my new grandson, Rob. Even though I missed our last reunion, this was still the taste of Middlebury that I needed, not to mention getting to spend time with Rob. I really liked getting to see Self-Reliance, Midd's Solar Decathlon entry in 2011, and meeting some of the people involved in it. I wish them all the best in the competition next year. Otherwise, I'm still working at the Financial Accounting Standards Board with no real plans for retirement." • **Judy Lelchook** sent this update: "I'm still in a public health administration and clinical position with the D.C. Health Department. For the first time I am working with addictions; this is new for me, since I left the PhD policy program at Maryland. I'm the mental health lead with the Red Cross of Alexandria, but I have not traveled with them since I went on disaster duty last spring in Tennessee and Louisiana." • Writing from the Atlanta area, **Lynda Basehore Cioci** says that she set the end of this past year for her second attempt at retirement—the last one was 10 years ago! "I hope to do better this time as I leave my compliance work in the securities industry behind, and Ray and I plan some major trips with Antarctica at the top of the list."

—Class Correspondents: Beth Prasse Seeley (beth@seeley.com); Nancy Crawford (ncrawford_sutcliffe@comcast.net).


SPARK
an internship
SPARK an internship that lights up a student's career path.
During his internship with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Morgan Boyles '13 (ES/geography and history) created interactive river maps to help Vermont towns avoid future flood damage. "It was fascinating and challenging," he says.
Internships spark jobs for students. Paid internships are key for financial aid students who need to work during breaks. Your Annual Fund gift—of any size—adds up to experiences like Morgan's.
Spark something with your gift today at go.middlebury.edu/give. Thank you!
Middlebury

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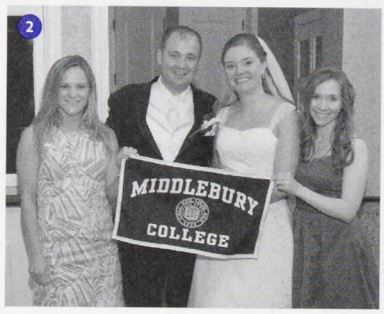
Dede Stockdell Welch and husband Carl have just retired to Santa Fe, N.M., and to the dream house they have built over the past year. Dede leaves a career of 40 years in the financial industry. She writes, "Santa Fe is lovely. Our view is 270 degrees, the sun sets off our portal, and we look at the lights of Los Alamos at night. I can't wait to be settled in, because I know it's going to be wonderful. New Mexico is truly the Land of Enchantment. We are looking forward to a lot of company, once we are settled in." • **Churchill Franklin** writes, "In June we had the Class of '72 (Janet Halstead Franklin's 40th), the Class of '02 (Chip Franklin's 10th), and the Class



1 Geordie Romer '95 married Allyson Zacharko on September 4, 2011, at Sleeping Lady Mountain Resort in Leavenworth, Wash. Friends who joined them included Ben Kimball '94, Jesse Cunningham '94, the newlyweds, Emma Ansara '96 with Ben, and Steve Engle '95 with Cyrus. 2 Katie Behrens, MA Spanish '09 and Garrett McMahon were married on June 18, 2011, in Kildeer, Ill. Spanish School friends joined them: Sarah O'Neil, MA Spanish '09, the newlyweds, and Gina Mezzano Douvris, MA Spanish '06. 3 Stephen Messinger '02 and Lauren Saraiva were married on a gorgeous September 2011 day in Kingfield, Maine, with Sugarloaf Mountain in the distance, surrounded by family and friends and kegs of delicious local Maine beer. The wedding included many Midd alums, who enjoyed dancing the night away, scotch and cigars, and late night s'mores by the fire: (all '02 unless noted) Ben Herter '03, Mason Smith, Annie Nichols Jones, Morgan Jones, Dana Gordon Dombrowski, Andrew Dombrowski, Eric Devon, Ed Bogart, the newlyweds (in front), Derek Chicarilli, Ben Weber, Chip Franklin, Hannah Ritchie Franklin, Chris Fanning, Sarah Knoebel, Nick Dutton-Swain, Lori Nelson Bresnahan '86, Churchill Franklin '71, and Janet Halstead Franklin '72.

4 In January 2012 a Middlebury mini-reunion took place in Shanghai, China: (seated) Ian Doherty '00, Joe Yu '13, Urvashi Barooah '13, Amanda Granger '10, J. Gregory Arthur '09, Adil Husain '01, (standing) Dan Ruth '09, Zach Woods '09, and Bobby Gosney '09. 5 Last January Isabelle Paine Thacker '88 visited Mary Beth Pryor Gonzalez '88 at her home in NYC for a long weekend.

of '07 (Lindsey Franklin's 5th) all for brunch in our backyard in Cornwall for their respective reunions. Perfect day and very exciting to see all the age groups mingling." Churchill adds a reminiscence: "Do you recall how we all used to head out to the Whiting quarry (a place that no one seems to know exists anymore) to jump off the 50-foot cliffs into the crystal clear quarry water? It was the late '60s and early '70s, so of course some (most?) of us were naked. It would be hard to forget the local Vermonters on the other side of the quarry next to their pickup trucks with binoculars watching the college kids be college kids. The big event was driving **Jack Bouffard**'s Volkswagen convertible off of the cliff and splashing it into its final resting place at the bottom of a very deep, water-filled granite quarry. I presume there are some other cars down there as well!" • **Jay Goyette** writes, "I had a nice, long talk with freshman year roomie **Jim Keyes** (now Middlebury VP for College Advancement) the other day. Since I have no money, it had nothing to do with fundraising—just catch-up. Still the great, genuine guy he always was. And I went on a great golf weekend with **Sandy Farrier**, **Bruce Foust**, **Jim Lombardo**, **VG Gooding**, and **Chris Burdge**. We were privileged to be invited to join Sandy at his family place at Biddeford Pool, Maine. Lots of yuks and snoring. And conversation about—guess what? Retirement—when and how? And what else? Long-term-care insurance! It's what we used to joke about back in the day. I made everybody laugh by saying my strategy was to be a burden on my children. **Howie Verman** and **Sandy McDowell** couldn't make it this year but were missed. **Emily (Groom)** and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary (4/8/72; do we have the record?). McDowell got Emily her current job (yay connections), and she loves it. Had dinner recently with **Pete Quinn** and Marian Greenberg. Some things, like true friendship, you can always count on."

—Class Correspondents: Barbara Laudenslager Mosley (barbaramosley@metrocast.net); Carolyn Ungberg Olivier (colivier@sover.net); Rob Waters (robwaters7012@mindspring.com).

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We have a little more news gathered at reunion time. An update came from my (**Jennifer**) Midwest neighbor **Ken Downs** to report on where he's been—and where he's headed: "Kathy and I have been in Toledo, Ohio, for the past 12 years, my longest tenure in one place since I left for college. After nearly 20 years teaching history and social studies in places such as Belgium, Pakistan, and the Philippines, I have spent the past 20 or so in journalism as a reporter, columnist, editor, and page designer. I've been at the *Blade* in Toledo since 2000, first as a copy editor and for the past five years as associate editorial page editor. Kathy spent five of our Toledo years in Georgia, mostly teaching theater and directing productions at Middle Georgia College. By the time this edition of the *Middlebury Magazine* comes out, however, our overseas adventures will have picked up

after a two-decade hiatus: Kathy has accepted a position teaching and directing at the American Univ. of Kuwait. We will have moved—lock, stock, and mother-in-law—in September. I don't know what I'll be doing yet. I'll find out shortly whether the *Blade* wants to have a Middle East correspondent. If not, there is tutoring, freelance writing, working for an English-language Kuwaiti publication, or even starting my own website to combine my interests in journalism, history, and teaching. We'll see. Sorry we didn't make it to Middlebury in June. We were looking forward to renewing old acquaintances. I can always be reached at kfdowns@yahoo.com." • **Tom McGrath** let the magazine office know that **Doug Arnot** had been appointed the director of games operations for the London Olympics. He has served as the managing director of venues and operations for the Atlanta 1996 Games, consulted on the 2000 Games in Sydney, and was managing director for event operations for the Salt Lake City Games. Since 2006 he has been senior VP of the Chicago 2016 bid team. • The Class of 1972 picked up a couple of awards at reunion. We won the Parton Family Award for a reunion class other than the 25th or 50th with the greatest increase in participation at 56 percent. We also got the Gordon C. Perine '49 Award for a reunion class other than the 25th or 50th with the greatest increase in total class gift with $1,706,267. Thanks to everyone who helped! • **Nancy Shields Kollmann** reports that she has completed her third historical monograph—*Crime and Punishment in Early Modern Russia* was published in October by Cambridge University Press. It took her more than 10 years, but she says that the sources were so great—murder and treason cases in 17th-century Russia—that the project was fun. A history professor at Stanford Univ., she and husband Jack have also embarked on an adventure—they moved into a dorm to be Resident Fellows to 160 students in all four classes (including freshmen!). As empty nesters (Sasha, 25, and Chris, 22, are both up and out, living locally), this seemed like a fun new challenge. The Kollmanns keep up what is now a 20+-year tradition of sharing summer vacations with Ron and **Linda Callahan Henry** and family—in 2012 they were in Hawaii. • You may have seen the Moroccan cookbook and memoir written by **Lisa Craig** in the "In the Queue" section of the fall magazine. She writes, "It describes the life and recipes of my maternal grandmother who brought her family here from North Africa in 1939 and proceeded to make a name for herself as a renowned hostess and chef of Moroccan cuisine. She came to the attention of Craig Claiborne, food critic of the *New York Times*, who described her feasts as 'home cooking that a sultan would envy.'" Lisa is the director of the Glen Cove (N.Y.) Adult Day Program at the Glen Cove Senior Center.

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REUNION CLASS We regret to report the September 6 death of **Edwina Shivelhood-Kartez** of Freeport, Maine. Edwina majored in art at Middlebury and trained in Waldorf early childhood education at Sunbridge Institute. She was a graphic artist, calligrapher, beekeeper, permaculturist, and Waldorf teacher. An obituary will appear in a future issue. • **Walter Newman** shared an announcement of his forthcoming retirement as director of paper conservation at the Northeast Document Conservation Center. During his long career, he conserved hundreds of works of art and artifacts, supervised projects, performed surveys, did training and consulting, and published trade articles. His projects took him across the country and abroad, including to the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, the National Archives in Mongolia, and the Center for Conservation in Chile. Over the years he has been involved in training and consultation in Cuba, including at the Hemingway Museum in Finca Vigía. Along the way he earned a master's in Spanish at Middlebury's summer Spanish School. We wish him a successful retirement in West Fairlee, Vt.

—Class Correspondents: Deborah Schneider Greenhut (deborah.greenhut@gmail.com); Andrea Thorne (andreathorne8@yahoo.com).

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Peter Harris sent a great update from Derby, Vt., along the Canadian border, where his family moved 24 years ago. "My wife of 35 years, Louise, has had a great career teaching elementary school and will be retiring this spring. I have been practicing primary care pediatrics and internal medicine in Newport. The biggest blessing of our lives has been two grandsons, who arrived in June 2011. Having raised only daughters, this has been an exciting ride. Mandy, our middle daughter, who works as an occupational therapist at Fletcher Allen in Burlington, was the first. With husband Ryan she brought forth Calvin, a mop-headed, mellow child who does it all well except sleep. Megan '00, our oldest, with husband Jason, had Hale, a headstrong blondie who likes nothing better than kicking a ball. Meg went to UVM Medical School and now practices primary care internal medicine in our practice in Newport. Our youngest, Abbie, lives with her boyfriend Chris in Ketchum, Idaho, where she grows vegetables in the summer and coaches and teaches Nordic skiing in the winter. My visits out there for all the recreation are high points of my year. Now that our house is remodeled and settled, I fill my extra time with brewing beer, x-c skiing, hiking, and mountain biking. Best to all!" • After **Lauren Singer Waite** told **Greg Dennis** at our 25th reunion (in 1999!) that she and husband Peter were planning to move back to Vermont, and then seeing Greg make the move just a few years later, she is thrilled to have finally moved to Bristol with Peter after living in Seattle and upstate New York for the past 34 years. She is enjoying reconnecting with many Midd friends and works for the College's Admissions Office as a seasonal reader. She's still riding and competing with equine partner, Phoebe. Her latest fun news is that daughter Hillary '05 and husband Brendan '05 are new parents. Son Chris '08 is in Boston and daughter Hannah '11 is in NYC. • Brad and **Bobbie Burchenal Landers** have also moved to the Middlebury area recently. They moved to Cornwall in September after over 30 years in Connecticut, and they love being back in the Middlebury community. Bobbie reports, "Our kids are fairly scattered—the three boys are in Seattle, Washington, D.C., and New York City, and our daughter, Kathryn, is in her last year at Miami of Ohio, so we are delighted to make this our home base. Both of us retired from IBM two years ago; Brad continues to work with his own software development firm, and I have been an EMT for the last several years. I was very sorry to give that up in the move, but it may translate fine to the Middlebury Volunteer Ambulance group one of these days. But more importantly, we have bought passes at the Snow Bowl and are looking forward to skiing!"

—Class Correspondents: Greg Dennis (gregdennisvt@yahoo.com); Barry Schultz King (kinglet@together.net).

75

From Arlington, Mass., **Gordon Jamieson** is excited to report that Translational Therapeutics expects to begin the clinical evaluation of their lead cancer therapeutic agent in 2013. At its core, TransRx is in many ways a Middlebury '75 enterprise, as 10 of our classmates (including, among others, **Caroline Sneath McBride**, **Bob Bourque**, **Rory Riggs**, **Tim** and **Carol Blakely Counihan**, and **Kevin Donahue**) have seen fit to invest in Gordon's enterprise, which is focused on developing cancer therapeutic systems applicable to 25 percent of human cancers. We're all hoping Gordon hits it big and makes an equally big impact on cancer. If you'd like to learn more about it, you can contact him at gordon@transrx-inc.com. • In other news **Caroline McBride** was recently made a Midd trustee, **Bob Bourque** was recently named the chair of AFEC (Annual Fund Executive Committee), and **Rory Riggs** continues to work and support the activities of MIDDCORE (entrepreneurship class) during winter term. • **Marty Van Oot** recently joined law firm Jackson Lewis in their Portsmouth, N.H., office as a partner. She had been at Orr and Reno in Concord, N.H. She's looking forward to moving to the seacoast—more salt water in which to paddle and fewer hills on the bike! • **Curt Viebranz** writes, "After nearly 20 years at Time Warner and a decade in the Internet start-up world, I moved to the nonprofit sector in September 2012 when I was named CEO of George Washington's Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon is the most visited historic site in America; we welcome more than a million people each year. In addition to the estate and gardens, we also have an education center and a museum and in September 2013, we will open the Fred Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington on a site contiguous to the estate. The opening of this 45,000-square-foot facility will mean that

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TOM STILLMAN

Tom Stillman grew up in Minnesota so it's no surprise that he laced up skates early and became an ice hockey player. At Middlebury he played on the varsity men's team, developing his skills under the tutelage of Coach Wendell "Wendy" Forbes '51. His path after college wasn't focused on hockey—law school, law firm, federal government, beer distribution business—but he didn't stop playing and he didn't stop loving the sport. Moving to St. Louis, he became an ardent St. Louis Blues fan. So one might say a dream came true in May when he led a group to buy the Blues—only as he says, "I never would have dreamed this." He credits the College with a big assist: "Wendy and Middlebury gave me the opportunity to continue playing hockey. That kept me involved in the game and fed the fever, which continued long after college and, one could argue, led to the Blues transaction." He and his partners are determined to keep the franchise stable and competitive. Meanwhile, he continues to skate himself, sometimes even with his old teammates from Middlebury. (See top photo; Tom's on the left.) He laces up to play with them in the over-50 division at the U.S. Pond Hockey Championships in—where else?—Minnesota.

214 years after his death, George Washington will finally have a national library. Mount Vernon was saved from ruin in the mid-1800s and is overseen by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Assoc., the oldest historic preservation organization in America. I now report to a board of 28 women! We have never accepted any public funds, relying instead on private support. If any of you are in the D.C. area, we are 14 miles from the Capitol. Let me know if you are in the neighborhood."

—Class Correspondents: Kevin Donahue (donahuek@vibram.us); Nan Rochelle McNicholas (hbmidd@yahoo.com); Joanne Scott (jscott@smcvt.edu).

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Gary Gray sent in this update: "In the small world department, my daughters and I hiked one mile of the Long Trail last summer on our day trip to take in the view from the top of Camel's Hump. The view was great, but the real treat was running into classmate **John Hearst** on the way up. John had already covered 100 miles of the trail and he looked virtually unchanged—either by the hiking or the 36 years since we graduated. When he's not out and about, John practices medicine in Bennington, Vt. I'm a government attorney in Washington. They say a walk in the woods is good for the health, but who knew it's a great way to meet old friends?" • In other 1976 news, the Johns Hopkins Univ. recently announced that **Jacqueline Lee Mok** has been appointed VP, chief of staff, and secretary to the board of trustees. Previously she was the provost and senior VP for academic affairs, as well as senior VP and chief of staff, at the Univ. of Arizona. • The New Jersey Bankers Assoc. recently announced its 2012–2013 officers and **Kevin Cummings** is serving as the chairman. He is the president and CEO of Investors Savings Bank in Short Hills, N.J.

—Class Correspondents: Gene O'Neill (otis3024@optonline.net); Betsy Sherman Walker (bsw1915@aol.com).

77

Laurie McLeod took a new road in her creative career and published a book, *Make It Happen in Ten Minutes a Day: The Simple, Revolutionary Method for Getting Things Done*. Inspired by the time constraints she encountered as a single mother, Laurie developed this blueprint for productivity and wrote the book in, yes, 10 minutes a day. Already a bestselling eBook in England and France, the book is gaining national recognition at home. Learn more at www.makeithappenintenminutesaday.com.

—Class Correspondent: Bob Lindberg (rcl@linrip.com).

78

REUNION CLASS **Jeff Plank** sent word that he has a new job. "In April I became the owner of Mid-Cape Home Centers, a 117-year-old building materials company serving Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and the Southeastern Massachusetts community. The business was established in 1895 by the Nickerson family with current locations in Wellfleet, Orleans, South Dennis, Hyannis, Yarmouth, Martha's Vineyard, Plymouth, and Middleboro. We run 25 delivery trucks all over the place. If you are on the Cape, I am typically in the South Dennis store, so stop in!" • **Bob Haney** is a litigation partner at Covington & Burling in New York and was married July 23 to Evangeline Gomez, an attorney and member of the board of trustees at Rutgers Univ. • **Jennifer Brown** writes that she made a career swan dive last January after 27 years at Fidelity Investments and is now chief engagement officer at Partners In Health. "So much for slowing down" with daughter Codi (15) hitting her mid-teens! As of August, Jennifer had already been to PIH sites in Haiti, Rwanda, and Malawi, and by the time this issue goes to press, she will also have traveled to Lesotho. There is, she writes, "nothing like being a middle-aged white lady showing up on a mountain road in Butaro or Neno to provoke gales of laughter—'*muzungu*!'" • **Court Chilton** is working as a professor at MIT's Sloan School and doing a lot of executive education with clients all over the world. He writes, "Couldn't interest either of my daughters in Midd—they get why I love it, but they wanted 'warm' and are both in college in California. Luckily my wife, who works for the Ephs down Rt. 7, and I like going there, too." • **Emory Williams** writes, "Last June I sold the China mining machinery company I ran to a U.S. heavy equipment company and then spent most of the summer on family travels in northern Italy (where we followed the amazing Chicago Children's Choir in which our son John sings), London, the Scottish Lowlands, and the U.S. I'm still involved in a couple other China/Asia businesses and have joined the board of Northwestern University, where I attended grad school." Emory's sons John (15) and Bo (4) and daughter Joy (1) "are all well and a great blessing to my wife Lucy and me." • After 30 years in New England, **Dick Eaton** (along with three kids, 17, 14, and 11) moved to Portland, Ore., last year, and he writes, "I love the Northwest. My work continues to be stimulating and fulfilling, particularly as a coach to highly successful business people. Outside of work I play ultimate Frisbee, practice Reiki, and paint landscapes in oil, which is my greatest passion. **Court Chilton** and **Roy Heffernan** are two classmates I see regularly. Hope all is well with everyone." • **Bern Terry** is involved in a new venture: "I am joining VGo Communications, which makes remote interactive tele-presence robots. These allow people to beam themselves across town or to a distant location from their computer at home or office and then look, hear, and interact as if they were there. Exciting uses in healthcare, education and research." • **Kim Wiehl** writes, "After over 20 years living in London, working for JPMorgan Chase and the Berne Union, I have recently moved back to the U.S. I'm now living in Westport, Conn., and working with the family commercial real estate company. I enjoyed my years in Europe, especially traveling to many countries in Central and Eastern Europe as well as China, Japan, and Thailand in Asia. However, I was lucky to come back and forth to New England during those years and have kept in touch with many of my good friends from Midd. Being back has been a lot of fun—catching up, now in person—and we enjoyed a festive beach picnic in July hosted by Mike '77 and **Karen Divalentino McGown** at Sprite Island. The Midd gang of '78 included **Jane Leggett**, **Diane Nastri**, and **Phyl Wendell Mackey** and husband Mike. Plans for ski trips and other adventures are underway and we are all looking forward to our 35th in June. My address is 193 Regents Park, Westport, CT 06880; e-mail kimwiehl@yahoo.com." • Be sure to check out our class Facebook page and tell us your news! We already have 71 members who are posting photos and updates. Also, please mark your calendars for our 35th reunion, which is June 7–9. We have always had an outstanding number of classmates return and look forward to another great time.

—Class Correspondents: David Jaffray (djaffray@mchsi.com); Phyllis Wendell Mackey (phylmackey@hotmail.com); Anne Rowell Noble (annenoblemail@aol.com).

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Hamish Blackman and **Bill Ryan**, both of whom discovered the bagpipes after graduation, traveled together to Switzerland last July to perform at the Basel Military Tattoo. Their pipe band, the Stuart Highlanders Pipes and Drums, was the only North American pipe band attending. They performed 16 shows in 10 days—in front of an audience of approximately 8,400 at each show. You can find them on YouTube, if you search for Basel Military Tattoo 2012! • **Majie Zeller** writes, "I went back up to Midd in the fall for a Mischords and D8 reunion that took place Homecoming Weekend in October. It was a blast. We were there to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Mischords and, lo and behold, our merry band from the late '70s and early '80s was the, um, most senior generation there. Marge Coombs Wellman '76, **Dorrie Fuchs**, Jane Hosie-Bounar '81, Henriette Lazaridis Power '82, Nina Koules Anton '82, Margaret Miller '82, and I stayed true to our era by singing the Grateful Dead, then joined the whole group spanning 35 years of Mischords for three more songs in the Mead Chapel concert, with Jennifur Fields Condon '80 and our D8 buddies Wouter Rietsema '80, Scott Fleming '80, Steve Ahmann '80, Paul Turco '80, and Ken Shulman '80 in the audience. (Yeah, they sang, too.) The next day we met up with Nancy Smith Brennan '80 for a chairlift ride at the Snow Bowl, where we also saw **Nina Lian**. Then we headed down to Boston to see **Joanellen Sullivan**, **Hamish Blackman**, **Kim Ulrich Whelan**, and Randy '80 and **Mary MacKenzie Corke** at the home of Jim '81 and Cindy Yasinski Tenner '81. What a great weekend!" • We (**Mary** and **Nancy**) are still looking for two classmates to take over as class correspondents. Please let us know if you're interested or contact the alumni editor, Sara Marshall, at smarshal@middlebury.edu.

—Class Correspondents: Mary MacKenzie Corke (mary.corke@gmail.com); Nancy Limbacher Meyer (limes79@yahoo.com).

Alumni Trustee
Dennis D. Parker '77

The full slate of nominees for the term of office beginning July 1, 2013, will be available for viewing on March 1, 2013, and voting on April 1, 2013. The deadline for voting is April 30, 2013. Please vote at **http://go.middlebury.edu/mcaa**.

To appear in the online spring ballot, additional nominations must be received by March 1, 2013. These nominations must include a signed letter of acceptance, updated biographical information, a photo, and 200 alumni signatures endorsing your nomination.

For a paper ballot, more information, or to submit nominees, please contact the Alumni Office, Painter House, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753 or e-mail us at alumni@middlebury.edu.

SAVE THE DATE
Reunion 2013 will be June 7–9!

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Stephen Croncota, who is the executive VP and CMO of GSN (formerly Game Show Network), sent word that they are launching a new series from Lionsgate and Eli Frankel called *Family Trade*. The series is based on the Stone family in Middlebury, who run G. Stone Motors, a GMC and Ford dealership. For years founder Gardner Stone has taken anything in trade towards a new car or truck, a practice his son and daughter sometimes have trouble with. Called a modern-day barter system, the dealership's original approach to business and the family drama it can provoke will be spread out over eight episodes.

—Class Correspondents: Anne Cowherd Kallaher (annie.cowherd@att.net); Susanne Rohardt Strater (scstrater@videotron.ca).

81

Several classmates gathered in October to witness the return to Middlebury of His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama. **Elaine King Nickerson**, **Sally Rueger Barnes**, **Kathy Leary McCarthy**, **Stacey Pogust Danziger**, **Sue Taylor**, and **Marcia Nordgren** traveled from Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia to join **Carolyn Bausch** (now living in Vermont) and **Marcy Parlow Pomerance** for a weekend of inspiration and reflection. The Dalai Lama's pragmatic and compassionate messages regarding the "oneness of humanity" nourished body, mind, and soul. And, in the spirit of embracing life's simple joys, these Midd women proceeded to have a fun-filled and restorative weekend. As Carolyn remarked, "We put ourselves in the Dalai Lama's hands, and we were rewarded." And as more than one person somewhere has said, "Laughter is the best medicine." • In addition to the news of **Mike Price** and his firm being profiled in the *New England Real Estate Journal* (which he insists was not a big deal), Mike reports that he bumped into **John** and Vicki Lamphere '84 **Burchard**, **Steve Clancy**, and Roy Heffernan '78 at the "Life is Good" concert in October. He also regularly sees **John Hayes**. His firm, Legacy Real Estate Ventures, had a solid year and his family is great. • **Helen Ladds Marlette** was recently promoted to assistant head of school and director of external relations at the Buffalo Seminary, an independent school for girls in Buffalo, N.Y. • **Carolyn Bausch** and **Marcy Pomerance** have agreed to sign on as correspondents with Elaine. You can send them news at the e-mails below!

—Class Correspondents: Carolyn Bausch (cbausch@verizon.net); Elaine King Nickerson (eknick@aol.com); Marcy Parlow Pomerance (pomerance@comcast.net).

82

Last May, **Jane Simon Fritz** and **Wendy Behringer Nelson** had a mini-1982-reunion at the NCAA Division III tennis tournament in Cary, N.C. Jane's son, Joey, won a great singles match for Amherst, where he is now a junior. • **Kate Kennedy** reports, "My daughter, Jamie, graduated from college with a degree in international studies. My husband, Dave, is retired and I am looking forward to joining him, but it will be 8–10 years. He and I are totally addicted to river rafting and spent a good part of the summer in Idaho rafting." • **Tim Cook** is keeping busy most of the time by operating his urgent care clinic in Rutland, Vt., and thanks everyone for paying their federal tax dollars so that the Army Reserve Medical Corps can keep him gainfully employed the rest of the time. • **Chris Price** writes, "I am married to Meg (Marion) '83. We live in Darien, Conn., and have three daughters, Caroline (19), Jenny (17), and Eliza (12). Caroline is a sophomore at Bucknell and Jenny and Eliza attend St. Luke's School. I'm a partner in the law firm of Goodwin Procter in the New York office. When I have downtime, I like to spend it cycling, skiing, running, and spending time with the family. Meg is a senior EMT in our town and a lacrosse coach in town and at the girls' school." • **Alison McGhee** writes, "My daughters and I visited Greece, a place they've wanted to visit ever since they were little and read *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. I have a few books coming out over the next few years; currently I'm working on poetry and another adult novel. More than anything, though, I'm just so grateful these days for all the love and happiness that comes my way from friends and family." • **Jeff Clarke**, **Rick Present**, and **Mike Sloss** had a mini-reunion in Washington, D.C., to celebrate the completion of Jeff's tenure as the interim president and CEO of the Council of Foundations. Rick continues to work for the National Board of Examiners in Optometry and Mike helps put together financing for affordable housing in his role as managing director of capital for ROC USA. • **Charlie Robinson** is doing well at Huber Engineered Woods, where he serves as GM on the ZIP System brand. ZIP is a new technology that allows builders to eliminate house wrap and felt. He donated Zip System product to the Midd Solar Decathlon team. Daughter Hannah is a member of Middlebury's Class of 2016. Her Hough High School soccer team won the North Carolina 4A State Championship and was ranked #1 in the nation by ESPN last spring. She played soccer at Midd in the fall. Wife Liz (O'Connell) '85 is working at Davidson College in the human resource dept. • **Emma "Raleigh" Mayer**, an NYC executive coach and consultant known as the Gravitas Guru, took a detour back to her stage days at Middlebury by performing a few numbers at the 92nd Street Y Cabaret program, including Adele's "Someone Like You" and Don McLean's "American Pie." Anyone up for a Midd talent show, Class of '82? • Kevin '81 and **Danielle Lamm Granath** write, "Our oldest is a sophomore at Harvard and we love to explore a new city. E-mail us (danielle515@gmail.com) your favorite Boston restaurants, bars, or things to do. Our 13-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter visit there with us once a year or so, too. Sorry to miss the reunion last year." • This news came from **Susan Meier Burke**: "I was really hoping this was going to be the time that I made reunion! However, last spring and summer were even busier than usual. My oldest daughter, Maddie, got married in Maine. My middle girl, Katy, graduated from Wake Forest. And my youngest, Jeff, started at Boston College this fall and will play baseball for them this spring! Oh, and after 17 years in Chattanooga, I sold my home and moved to NYC. I do hope to catch up with some old friends so if anyone is coming through NYC or lives here, I hope they'll get in touch (susanburkechatt@gmail.com). I'm enjoying being back in the Northeast and only hope I can survive the winter." • **Judy Bonzi** reports, "I've been in Maine since January at the Center for Furniture Craftsmanship, where I'm a Fellow, and I'm loving every minute of it. Recently the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland had a bench design competition, and one of my submissions was chosen among the 15 out of 75 submissions that are being exhibited at the Messler Gallery in Rockport this January. I'll be at CFC until early summer and then—who knows? My daughter started grad school to get her master's in teaching, and my son is literally a rock star and a luthier; so the nest is empty, and I'm having a blast!" • **Hannah Felton Lyons** writes, "I had a wonderful time at our 30th reunion with all of the rest of our classmates. There was great representation from Hepburn 5, which was really fun. Our oldest has a job after graduating from Dickinson and our youngest, Molly, is a freshman at Dartmouth and rows for their women's crew team. I continue to work in oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital and John continues teaching and coaching at Groton School. We had dinner last spring with **Jeff Johnson** and **Beau Coash** and their spouses. All are doing well." • **Wendy Behringer Nelson** had three Class of 1982 mini-reunions in one week while

up north dropping son Colin at Union College to start his freshman year and at Midd delivering son Alec for his senior year. She traveled to Chelsea, Vt., to compare class correspondent notes with **Caleb Rick** and wife Trish. Wendy, Caleb, and Trish worked together 22 years ago in San Francisco—and none of them have aged a bit! Later in the week, she ran into fellow empty-nesters **Laura Ten Broeke Rumbough** and husband Doug at the Middlebury Co-op and ended her Midd stay by attending an a cappella concert at Mead Chapel with **Henriette Lazaridis Power**. • **Laura Rumbough**'s daughter, Anna, graduated from Middlebury Union High School and now attends Denison Univ. She spent the summer biking in Tuscany on one of Laura's Tips on Trips and Camps programs.

—Class Correspondents: Wendy Behringer Nelson (gomomgo@bellsouth.net); Caleb Rick (crick@northcommon.com).

83

REUNION CLASS **Maria Padian** writes, "I'm still living in Brunswick, Maine, with my family, although it's rather quiet around the house since we delivered our youngest, Madeline, to Middlebury, where she's a very happy member of the Class of 2016. On move-in day we had a chance to reconnect with some classmates, joining **Mark** and **Monique Lucas Conroy** and their kids, Kevin '16 and Kristina '14, for lunch at Ross. While we were eating, the Conroys introduced us to **Bob Norberg**'s son, Chris '16, who had already arrived on campus for football preseason. Later that day we ran into into **Terry Epstein** at the president's reception at the Mahaney Arts Center—she had just dropped off her daughter, Jordan '16, in Battell! Over the summer my husband and I got together with **Mary Borah Gorman** and husband Steve for a great weekend of biking, kayaking, and good conversation (not to mention Mary's great cooking) on Cape Cod in Truro, Mass. And every once in a while **Dan Kagan** and I stop Facebook-messaging each other long enough to actually leave the house and get together. He lives one town over in Freeport. He and wife Julie had us over for brunch one cold February morning to introduce Madeline to their son, Max, who's also a student at Midd. So, now that the house is quiet and I'm an empty nester, I have no excuse not to be very productive and get on with my writing. I'm venturing into a new novel right now and also doing some promotional work for my third book, which is due out in February 2013. It's a young adult novel called *Out of Nowhere*, and it's about the friendship that develops between a white teenage boy from Maine and a Somali refugee boy who play on the same high school soccer team. • **Todd Miller** writes, "I'm officially retired. I took early retirement and love it. I worked for 20 years at UVM's College of Medicine and have lived in Burlington for 25 years. I'm a Vermonter and grew up in Montpelier, graduate of Montpelier High School." • **Geoff Proctor** sent word that he recently published *Behind the Stare*, a book about the sport of professional cyclocross. In 2007 he took a sabbatical from his job as a high school English teacher in Helena, Mont., to write the story of a sport where he's not only been a fan but also a competitor, among other things, and he serves as a member of the International Cycling Union Cyclocross Commission. • As of last July 1, **Roger Chow** began serving as the director of curriculum and instruction for Tacoma (Wash.) Public Schools. Working in the district since 2010, he previously was an instructor facilitator and oversaw the development and delivery of all content and professional development K–12 language arts and social studies curriculum. • **John Morrison** is the owner of the Wachusett Dirt Dawgs, a team in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League of New England, where elite collegiate baseball players compete in a minor-league format. The Dirt Dawgs play on Doyle Field in Leominster, Mass. John writes, "The Dawgs were a new venture this past summer—even more noteworthy, this is the league that brought Midd junior pitcher, Mike Joseph, to the attention of area pro scouts and resulted in Mike signing a pro contract with the Orioles and forgoing his senior year at Midd. It would have been fun to be party to that conversation with his parents! I would be happy to host any '83s in the 'owner's box' next summer. I'm not sure if reunion will work between the team and our oldest graduating from Carleton in June." • We hope many of you can get back to campus for reunion June 7–9!

—Class Correspondents: Ruth Kennedy (ruth.kennedy4@gmail.com); Siobhan Leahy Ulrich (sulrich@westminster-school.org).

84

Meryl Capone checked in after flying far too long under the Midd tech radar. She has lived in California since 1995 and is in Santa Barbara County in a small town called Los Olivos. She manages a winery—let me repeat that—she manages a winery. It's called Gainey Vineyard and she has been there for 17 years. Her company also recently opened a second winery—Evan's Ranch—and she manages this one also. Meryl reports that she LOVES her job! She was married in February 2009 to "a wonderful man, who I met through friends, and his name is Alvie Whitaker." Alvie has a 13-year-old daughter, so "I became an instant mother." Meryl couldn't include too much more in her note because she was setting off an amazing trip to Europe for her 50th birthday and Alvie's 40th birthday—Rome, Mediterranean cruise, Barcelona, Spain. Not too shabby. • BetterInvesting announced that **John Gannon** had been elected to the NAIC-BetterInvesting board of directors. He retired as president of the FINRA Investor Education Foundation, where he managed the foundation's grant-making and programmatic efforts to educate and protect investors. • A landscape architect in Virginia, **Charles Stick** was profiled in *Garden and Gun* magazine last winter. • Check out some 1984 mini-reunion photos on page 89!

—Class Correspondents: Elizabeth Eppes Winton (ewinton@mac.com); Andrew Zehner (andrewzehner@gmail.com).

85

Claire Wrenn Bobrow writes that she's been living in San Francisco since graduation. After experimenting a bit in the work world, she went back to school and got a master's degree in landscape architecture from UC Berkeley in 1993. Now she's raising two kids, Juliette (high school sophomore) and Lewis (8th grade), with her husband Jared who is an IP lawyer. They spend a lot of time at the baseball diamond and the soccer field, as well as at choral performances, enjoying the kids' activities. In addition to lots of volunteer work at the kids' school, Claire's other interests are dance and the San Francisco Opera, where she is a volunteer board member. As for Middlebury friends, she sees a lot of **Kristin Morse** and would like to see more of **Sara Ramseyer Klein**! Kristin and Claire have been in a book club together for over 17 years and they love to walk their dogs together at the beach when they can find the time. • **Lisa Meyerhoff Marks** writes that in July, she took her oldest daughter on a two-week holiday to Japan—her high school graduation present! They spent most of their time in Tokyo and Kyoto, visiting museums, imperial gardens, and temples, temples, temples! Lisa explains, "The country is immaculate, the people are respectful, the rooms are compact and efficient (but beds are hard as marble, pillows like sacks of flour!), and everyone takes pride in their work! Enjoyed the food, but never found a decent breakfast. If you go, bring lots of cash (rarely accept credit cards) and comfortable shoes. We'll cherish the memories always." • **Eileen Minnefor** is still living in Brooklyn, N.Y., with husband Will Dixon and sons David (14) and Michael (12). She reports that they moved to Brooklyn 15 years ago, before it became the "hip" borough, and still like it there, although she'll admit to actively discouraging any more Manhattanites from moving in. This year, Eileen is once again teaching legal writing to first-year law students at Fordham Law School and in November, she was looking forward to seeing at least some of her Middlebury friends at a weekend get-together. Hopefully they will have more to report soon, since they are planning a group trip to Italy to celebrate their 50th birthdays! • **Lance Young** also filled us in on his life. He has been in and around the Greater Boston area for the last 25 years. After doing a bit of dancing directly out of college, Lance turned to more "serious" work in the field of high-tech marketing, working as a marketing director for IBM, Bow-street, and Platinum Technologies. After 9/11, Lance went to work for his family, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation in Connecticut as the executive director of human potential development for seven years. It gave him a chance to pass on what he had learned through education and his professional career to the youth and young adults in Native American tribes around New England and throughout the Northeast, through the development of educational and career programs and services. He has since returned to Boston, living on Bunker Hill and working once again as a marketing director of a technology integration company where he has

been for the past seven years. • **Ruth Lohmann Davis** and her husband Matt have recently ventured into the world of entrepreneurship with their start-up of Ground Energy Support, LLC (groundenergysupport.com). Their company offers web-based monitoring of geothermal heating and cooling systems. Ruth and her husband are hydrogeologists by training but developed the new geothermal HVAC monitoring system when they recognized the parallels between hydrogeology and thermogeology. Ruth is lucky enough to have twin sister **Denah Lohmann Toupin** helping in the marketing effort! • Peter Simonson '54 sent this note: "When I recently went in for eye surgery, I discovered I was in good hands because the highly recommended doctor turned out to be a Midd graduate also, by the name of **Jordan Sterrer**." Check out a photo on page 83.

—Class Correspondents: Ruth Lohmann Davis (ruth.davis63@gmail.com); Denah Lohmann Toupin (denaht@comcast.net).

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Jeneva Burroughs Stone sent a detailed and beautiful e-mail describing the undiagnosed illness that has left her son Robert, born in 1997, profoundly disabled. He has a global movement disorder that, gradually, left him with variable and extremely limited voluntary movement—so limited that he cannot reliably access augmentative communication technology, despite the fact that his receptive language abilities are within normal range and he's very social. Robert has remained undiagnosed for 14 years now. "My Midd classmates also rose to the occasion in December 2011 when my husband and I were connected with a new nonprofit, Rare Genomics Institute, which connects families of undiagnosed children with genome-sequencing labs and research neurologists. Part of our job was to raise, using crowdsourcing, $7,500 to cover the reduced rates negotiated for us by RGI for the testing. We raised almost all of it within less than two weeks on Facebook and dozens of my classmates gave. I was blown away—I tried to thank as many as I could personally, but I want to extend my deep gratitude and awestruck admiration to everyone. All of this reminded me how much my years at Middlebury meant to me and how the College and my classmates continue to play a role in my life. Thank you to all. I've also been working on a memoir about Robert's illness, and especially want to thank **Mike Strong** for his help and advice in the early stages and throughout. I've recently won residency fellowships at the MacDowell and Millay Colonies to work on the book. I've just returned from MacDowell, where I nearly crossed paths with **Mike Paterniti**—he left about two weeks before I arrived!" Jeneva will keep us updated on her son's progress and on her book. Check out her blog: http://jgirl3.blogspot.com/. • Since the column is a bit light this winter, below is news from the class correspondents: **Becky Spahr Frazier** is enrolled in a Pennsylvania Master Naturalist program. "I hope to concentrate on stream and wetlands restoration in the Pennsylvania southeastern eco-region. I'm currently working on my capstone project. My kids are impressed; at least, they call me Dr. Frazier. I love it! I also continue to work as a facilitator for various team-building programs. Most of the work is based around group initiatives, as well as high- and low-ropes courses. Still fun and very rewarding work!" • **Torsten Garber** is still on the West Coast and passes along the following: "Hi all, still living in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Watching our three kids develop and trying to keep up with their sports is keeping us busy. I'm still working as a contractor for the Navy at NAS Point Mugu and, due to the nature of my work, I can't talk about it much. I love hearing from you all and Becky and I encourage all of you to drop us a note and let us know of your doings."

—Class Correspondents: Becky Spahr Frazier (frazierbeck@comcast.net); Torsten Garber (skytag@verizon.net).

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As promised in the fall issue, here is more classmate news gathered at reunion: **Buffy Andrews Lamberson** writes, "Going back to Midd for our 25th was a fantastic experience! It was wonderful to reconnect with old friends I haven't seen in a while and spend time with my closest friends that I never feel I get to see enough! I think the best part of the weekend was drinking sangria on the lawn in front of Atwater with an ever-growing group of old and new friends, catching up on each others' lives, talking about our Midd experiences and about where our lives go from here. Middlebury put on a great reunion weekend and it was truly good to go back!" • **John Woolley** manages a private equity fund at Tamarack Capital and continues to be very involved with his community and efforts to help women and orphans in Rwanda. This past Christmas he was taking his children over there to soak in the country and all that they could learn from it. • **Kristen Suokko** returned from four months of living abroad with her family in India and China as a part of her husband's economic research. Many insights about both countries were gleaned, but even more about her children who chatted with her in ways that our busy American life sometimes doesn't permit. • **Yale Lewis** practices family law at his own firm in Seattle. He also specializes in Indian law and has worked on legal cases with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. • **Georgette Csobaji** is a social worker in Baltimore. • **Tim Weed** lives in Putney, Vt., and coordinates programming for National Geographic student expeditions. • **Joel Brother** is still jet-setting around the world in search of leather. "That's really what I do," says Joel, "and my boys think that's cool. Not to mention the various flight attendants on my regular routes. My lovely wife is very confident that even with my exotic and exciting job description, the flight attendants don't notice me. She has every reason to be confident. I fly coach." • As mentioned in the summer issue, **Jack Otter** published a book, *Worth It...Not Worth It?*, on personal finance. Buy it and write a great review on Amazon. If the book makes the bestseller list, Midd can hit him up for more dinero. • **Rommin Adl** lives with his wife and three kids in New Canaan, Conn., and is a partner in the strategy execution firm BTS. • **John Aymar** joined BTS two years ago and is working in business development. He lives in Fairfield, Conn., with his two sons. BTS now has 10 Middlebury grads who came on board in the last five years. They're all doing great! • **John Bohan** lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif., and is the founder and managing director of a social media marketing company called SocialTyze. • **Don Hindman** writes, "Really sorry to have missed our 25th reunion—it looked like a blast and it was fun to see how well (most) of our classmates have aged!" He was attending the D8 60th anniversary reunion at Homecoming in October, so he couldn't make two trips out from Colorado. "Speaking of Colorado, I'm totally enjoying the myriad outdoor fun stuff to do out here—lots of mountain trail runs this time of year. Cheers to all." • **Sarah Albano Wascura** is working on a PhD in English at Lehigh Univ. with—hopefully!—conferral in May.

—Class Correspondents: Tom Funk (tomfunk@gmail.com); Elizabeth Ryan O'Brien (obrien@bigwhoop.com).

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REUNION CLASS Hi classmates! Members of the 25th Reunion Committee met at Bread Loaf in late September to start planning and organizing reunion—June 6–9. Attending the leadership conference were **Anya Puri Brunnick**, **Jim Calise**, **Margie McDonald Devine**, **Ellie Waud Dorr**, **Vicki Wright Bronson**, **Rebecca Martin Connard**, **Michelle Dube**, **Michelle Millin Stroud**, **Joan Viebranz Lockwood**, and **Andre Berot Spring**. You will be hearing from members of the committee throughout the year. We had a great weekend and can't wait to see you all in Vermont in June! Start rallying your friends now! • **John Goebel** and wife Eve welcomed their third son, Andrew Francis, on August 20. • **Beth Zogby** writes, "A new job opportunity fell into my lap in Rochester, N.Y. The cause is pet-related. It's a relatively new local foundation called Rochester Hope for Pets. Most of you know what a dog nut and shelter/rescue advocate I am, so I agreed to begin last July 16. I'm helping to build a more formal development infrastructure for the organization. Here's the website: http://mvahopefoundation.org." Congrats Beth! • **Bridget Jennings Dumont** writes, "I'm still with the man I met during my junior year abroad! I'm still using my languages from Midd in my daily work as an interpreter/translator and international advertising/marketing/PR consultant. Best decision I ever made was to attend Middlebury!" • **John Walker** writes, "Last summer I visited Middlebury with my two daughters (ages 16 and 14). Highlights for them included seeing the school, swimming at the Falls of Lana, and eating at A & W. The lowlight was mandatory camping at Lake Dunmore—I pretended to like it. While I was in town I saw **Pam Lawson Quinn** at what used to be Lyon's Place. We had a nice chat and I have to say that Midd looks glorious in the summer!" • In mid-September, **Claire Gwatkin Jones** made the quickest visit of all time

to Michael Obel-Omia's home in Barrington, R.I., while en route to Providence Airport from Martha's Vineyard. In that time, she and Michael managed to agree that they would bring both their families to our 25th reunion in June. Be prepared, Claire may pop by at any time to coerce you to come back to campus this summer! Mark your calendars—or else! • Check out some 1988 mini-reunions on pages 74 and 83.

—Class Correspondents: Anya Puri Brunnick (abrunnick@gmail.com); Claire Gwatkin Jones (gwatko@yahoo.com).

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When I assumed the responsibility as class correspondent in the early summer of '10, I worked from home, for myself, and had both flexibility in work schedule and a reasonable amount of free time to pursue connecting with classmates. Since

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

BREAD LOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH

Louise Wagner Kempka ('67–'69, '71) sent a note about Jean Baker (MA '68), who passed away on June 23. A high school teacher, Jean also loved theater. "She delighted Bread Loaf Little Theater audiences in plays spanning from Shakespeare to Fry to Ionesco. Jean was a Larch lady, remembered by many for shouting 'everyone out of the pool' to summon people to cocktails at the Larch well." • At Wheeler School in Providence, R.I., Marcie Cummings (MA '83) was selected as the 2012 Founder's Award recipient, the highest honor presented by the Alumni Assoc. She has taught English at Wheeler since 1980. • In June Rick Commons (MA '94) will step down as the headmaster at Groton School in Groton, Mass., which he joined in 2003, to become the president of Harvard-Westlake School in L.A., where in the early 1990s he worked as an English teacher, college counselor, assistant dean, and soccer coach. • Charles Soriano (MA '96), who has been serving as the East Hampton (N.Y.) School District's assistant superintendent for the past nine years, recently took over as the principal at East Hampton Middle School. • Bill Wiles (MA '96) retired from the State of Vermont. He served as a teacher in public and independent schools and, more recently, as a probation/parole officer with the Vermont Dept. of Corrections. Bill moved on to his new role as director of grants and special projects at Castleton State College and continues as an adjunct professor in the college's English dept. • Hugh Dyment (MA '01) was recently appointed to the Alaska Community and Public Transportation Advisory Board. He has been a teacher with the Lower Kuskokwim School District for more than two decades. • Mohsin Tejani (MA '01) is the founder and executive director of the School of Writing in Karachi, Pakistan. The school was established in collaboration with the Andover Bread Loaf Writing Workshop. • Tara Lynn Tanner (MA '08) is the director of special programs at the Sting and Honey theater company. She also teaches at the Waterford School in Sandy, Utah, and is mom to two children.

CHINESE SCHOOL

Ellen Welch Granter ('84, '85) was the featured artist of the month in November at the Edgewater Gallery in Middlebury. Her work also appeared on the cover of the novel *The Help*. • Paul DiResta (MA '12) has accepted a job teaching at the Belmont (Mass.) Hill School.

FRENCH SCHOOL

Christine Igot (MA '90) is currently on leave from teaching French at Université Sainte-Anne to open a vintage home décor store with her sister Jane Nicholson in the historic town of Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia. Check it out: www.mrsnicholsonhome.com. • Kathleen Turner (MA '99) was recently named the 2013 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. She teaches French at Sharon High School, where she's been instrumental in building the French program. • Dawn Cheikh (MA '05), adjunct professor of French and Arabic at Grand Rapids Community College, was named the Excellence in Education Adjunct Faculty Award Winner for 2012. • This past fall Teresa Akers McKenna (MA '05) joined the faculty of Torrington (Conn.) High School as a French teacher. • Justin Gibson (MA '08) and Sarah Gower (MA '09) were married in July. She teaches French and is chair of the world languages dept. at Brimmer and May School in Chestnut Hill, Mass., and he's pursuing a doctoral degree in French studies at Brown Univ.

GERMAN SCHOOL

David Rachlin (MA '77) recently published a book of poetry entitled *Topographies of Light* (AuthorHouse.com). He continues to teach elementary school in Acton, Mass., and is an adjunct professor in Lesley University's graduate creative writing program.

ITALIAN SCHOOL

Natalie Lero Urban (MA '71) writes, "I retired last June after 33 years of teaching Italian and Spanish, the last 25 years at Cranston West (R.I.) High School. I was fortunate to find a part-time job teaching Italian at Salve Regina Univ. in Newport, R.I. My classroom is in a beautiful mansion overlooking the ocean. It is Paradiso! I look forward to traveling and spending more time with family and friends."

MONTEREY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Working at a nonprofit providing legal aid to the impoverished in his native Pakistan, Amir Murtaza (MAIPS '07) saw how poor women and their children were treated socially and to some extent also legally, as second-class citizens. He set out to study the marginalized in developing countries where patriarchal and feudal systems often worked to the disadvantage of the most vulnerable. "I was lucky to have had a great education and a supportive family," says Amir. Determined to "be the solution," Amir won a Fulbright Scholarship and came to Monterey to study international development and to advance his skills for grassroots level organizations. Amir describes his current work as a consultant to major international aid agencies, UN organizations, and the government of Pakistan as a great way to fund his passion for helping grassroots organizations. In February of 2011, he started the Human and Community Development Clinic to provide free technical assistance to cash-strapped local nonprofit organizations, individuals, and community groups. Since his graduation, Amir has been extensively writing on issues related to women and children in Pakistan and South Asia in an effort to raise awareness. His work has been widely published in journals, newspapers and websites of human-rights-focused organizations. • Celebrating 25 years in operation is Stanford Hospital and Clinics medical translation and interpretation internship program, which enrolls nine students from the Monterey Institute every summer. Students complete 192 hours of intense training during their 22-day internship and receive a Stanford/MIIS certificate in medical T&I. Keeping it in the MIIS family is Stanford internship coordinator Maria de la Paz Garcia Cortes (MATI '04), who was preceded by Johanna Parker (MATI '05) and Alexander "Sasha" Vasil'ev (MATI '04). • Two days after the 2012 TEDxMonterey conference, Digital Learning Commons director Bob Cole (MATESOL '96)—co-organizer of TEDxMonterey—traveled to Doha, Qatar, for the TEDxSummit, where he joined other conference organizers from around the world to explore the future of TEDx.

SPANISH SCHOOL

In California, Maria and Dick Clark (MA '62) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last summer. They were married in Madrid, Spain, in July 1962. • Fernando Mercado-Beléndez (MA '64) has a new book out entitled *Paid Debts: History of the Expiation of a Spirit* (Dorrance Publishing Co.). He taught at the Univ. of Puerto Rico-Carolina and now enjoys retirement in San Juan. • After a career as a Spanish professor at Columbia Univ., Gus Puleo (MA '85) entered the seminary and is now a priest at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Norristown, Pa. • JSerra Catholic High School in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., recently hired Rich Meyer (MA '03) as the new president. Previously he was serving as headmaster at Northridge Preparatory School in Chicago. • Oscar Rollan (MA '04) is a language teacher at Sacred Heart Academy in Connecticut. • Song Cho (MA '05) is an assistant professor of Spanish at Oklahoma Baptist University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences. • Alexia Stempel (MA '12) is working in Madrid for the Fulbright Foundation and the Assoc. of American Univ. Programs.

then, I have returned to a corporate position—consumer and shopper insights director for Pernod Ricard USA (spirits and wine marketer)—which I really enjoy, but which is also pretty all-consuming (60–65 hours/week, excluding commute time). As a result, I do not have as much personal/free time as I would like, including time for connecting with classmates. I'd like to still be involved and would be willing to write and edit the column if someone else was willing to contact classmates. So anyone interested in being a co-correspondent and taking that on, please be in touch.

—Class Correspondent: John Mutterperl (john@baldyconsulting.com).

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Jennifer Kelley says her life is such chaos, she "is often lucky to leave the house each morning with matching shoes." Jen still works at Altria, in Richmond, Va., managing its import and export business. She and her husband now have a one-year-old son, Merritt, born on November 17, 2011, joining big sisters Lorelei (5) and Rowan (3). • **Elisabeth Grinspoon Spiro** lives in Portland, Ore., and is working for the U.S. Forest Service. • **Kim Bradley**, based in Berlin, was named *Monocle*'s correspondent for Berlin and Austria. She continues to write a lot, and she has started doing radio for the first real time in her life (claiming that her "dj" show for WRMC doesn't count), since *Monocle* started a radio station in October 2011. Her partner Michael is teaching at the art academy in Vienna and selling well in exhibitions in Italy and Mexico, so they are back and forth often between Vienna and Berlin. Their three-year-old daughter, Iona, is talking up a storm and loves pink, *Hello Kitty*, and *The Lion King*. • **Greg Allen** has owned an IT consulting company in Denver for seven years, with mostly oil and gas clients. Greg's company manages their systems and wires their offices for network connectivity. • **John Watson** joins us in the column after a self-described news absence of 20 years! John has spent the past 14 of his post-Midd years in Colorado, mostly on the Front Range. He went out West with **Deron Chang** soon after college. "Deron eventually went back east and I stayed west, mostly in Colorado except for stints back in Vermont, and in Michigan (grad school) and Alaska." In 2012, for a variety of personal and professional reasons, John moved his small companies, the Evergreen Education Group and Aventouras (aventouras.com—what a cool company for active travelers!) to Durango, Colo. John loves the outdoor access. He still sees Deron and Penny Post '89 every summer for a weekend at the Jersey Shore. • **Andrew Marble** is now living in the Middlebury area. A freelance editor and writer, he was the founding editor of *Asia Policy*, a peer-reviewed journal that bridges the gap between academic research and policymaking in the Asia-Pacific.

—Class Correspondents: Dawn Cagley Drew (dawnza@gmail.com); Elizabeth Toder (eatoder@gmail.com).

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The Class of 1991 has lots of great news to report. We were thrilled to hear from some of our classmates for the first time since graduation! • **Kate Grimes McMahon** lives in NYC with her family (boys 5 & 8) and continues to pursue her acting career (kategrimes.net). She spends the summer between Pound Ridge, N.Y., where she grew up and Long Island's North Fork. She recently had a great visit with **Eliza Harding Turner**, who stopped by NYC from San Francisco. She hopes to see everyone at the 25th reunion! • From **John Burrell** we heard, "After 16 seasons at Western Connecticut State Univ., I have moved on to Bowdoin College. I'm serving as defensive coordinator of the football team, joining fellow Midd alumni Dave Caputi '81 (head coach) and Ryan Sullivan '95 (offensive line). Bowdoin opened the season at Middlebury!" • **Karen Hamad** lives in Sarasota, Fla., with husband Jon and daughters Lauren (11) and Sage (9). She's practicing internal medicine/pediatrics full time and trying to balance the wife/mother/swim team mom aspects as well. They spent three weeks this past summer at the beach house she grew up in on Long Beach Island, N.J. • **Jeremy Braddock** is an associate professor in the English department at Cornell, and his book *Collecting as Modernist Practice* came out in 2011 from Johns Hopkins University Press. He lives in Ithaca—which he reports is essentially a slightly larger Middlebury—with his wife and five-year-old daughter. • **Karmali "Ali" Bhanji** moved to NYC in 2011 and works as the director of college guidance at Collegiate School. • **Mike Rea**, wife Karen, and daughter Elsie are now in Seattle, where they occasionally get together with **Stephen Fedele** at Sounder games. Mike is with the education group at the Gates Foundation and has also launched TsunamiPlus10.org, a hobby project looking at the philanthropic legacy of the Boxing Day Tsunami. At press time, Mike and **Mayra Padilla** were heading off to Sri Lanka. Mayra is collaborating with Mike and together they were planning to travel throughout Sri Lanka visiting the people and the places that received tsunami aid. Mayra's part of the project was to capture and bring to life through film and video the stories from the people who were the beneficiaries of the tsunami. She was praying her 20-plus-year friendship with Mike could withstand the heat and humidity and her surliness in such environments! • **Daanish Mustafa** writes, "I am a reader in politics and environment at King's College London. I dispense wisdom to a paying audience and try to sound more clever than I actually am. 2013 is a sabbatical year for me, which I'm spending in Kathmandu, doing useful and important things—such as research—that nobody will read unless I make them. Any of the Middlebury people blowing through Kathmandu this year would be most welcome to look me up—in a pinch I could even supply a couch to sleep on." • **Alex Heros** writes, "I live in Tucson, Ariz., with my wife Betsy and my 12-year-old twins, and work as the VP international for a company based in Memphis, Tenn. I spend a lot of time traveling all over the world in my job, spending close to 50 percent of my time on the road. Last summer I took the family on a vacation in Australia; they all loved it. I would love to see any Midd friends if they come to Tucson. Still stay in touch with my core group of Midd friends although we don't get together as much as I would like, given everyone's busy schedules." • **Scott Smithson** has been working as an ERP consultant at Central Data in Michigan for the last eight years. He took a trip to New England in the summer and stopped by Middlebury for the first time in 20 years. • **Ray Strong** writes, "Since reunion, I completed the Ford Ironman in Louisville, Ky., with a time of 10 hours and 23 minutes. Post that, I moved to Houston and have enjoyed margaritas. Melissa and I are fully set in Houston and welcome visitors. In fact, **Steve Quinn** recently did a fly-by. I can be reached at ray.strong@evercore.com." • **Bill Driscoll** shared exciting news of his recent appointment as chairman of the board of directors for Junior Achievement of Northern New England (JANNE). He's been on the board since 2007 and has played an instrumental role in the planning and coordination of several of JA's premier events. Serving "at risk" youth, JANNE implemented 1,535 programs throughout 200 schools and after-school sites, reaching over 36,000 youth through the efforts of 1,400 trained volunteers for the 2011–2012 school year. All programs are provided at no cost to schools and organizations. • **Marc** and Jill Herbster '89 **Bujold** and their twin daughters, Helen and Sophie, traveled from their home in Tampere, Finland, to Italy for a week. After some time in Florence, where Jill spent her junior year, they met Jodi Mitchell-Villano '90, husband Robert, and daughter Catherine. They all stayed at a winery in Tuscany for a few days before flying to Finland. Jodi and family returned back to Miami after three days in Finland. • In July 2011, **Natalya Baldyga** and husband Ryan Wheeler welcomed son Leo Joseph Wheeler Baldyga. The following month they moved 1,300 miles so Natalya could start a new position at Tufts Univ. At Tufts, she teaches undergraduate and graduate theater history and direct stage productions for the Department of Drama and Dance. After a year as a stay-at-home dad, Ryan was appointed director of the R.S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology at Phillips Andover. They love being in the Boston area and hope to get up to Middlebury for a visit soon. • **Dennis Schaecher** shares his news: "I was 'up north' recently and had the pleasure of dinner in Boston with **Paul Wilcox**, **Anthony Storm**, **Bob Anderson** (**Bowdish**), and **Steve Quinn**. Great to catch up with these old friends. I'm living in Chapel Hill, N.C., married to Laurie (Hutchins) '93 with three kids—Sara (10), Sadie (6), and Dylan (4). I started, and run, an M&A consulting firm, Business Ownership Strategies, with **John Dahl**. Enjoying life, family, work, and fun in N.C.!" • Keep sending us notes. Your classmates love to hear from you!

—Class Correspondents: Marika Holmgren (holmgren.marika@gmail.com); Lucy Randolph Liddell (lucy_liddell@yahoo.com).

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I (Sara) am looking for someone to help me as a class correspondent. Please let me know if you'd be willing to sign up!

—Class Correspondent: Sara Garcia McCormick (smg70@gate.net).

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REUNION CLASS Sarah Stewart Taylor has come out with a new novel, a book for kids this time. She says, "The book, about kid explorers in an alternate future, was partly inspired by an African History class I took with John Spencer my sophomore year at Middlebury." Entitled *The Expeditioners and the Treasure of Drowned Man's Canyon,* the middle-grade novel is about three orphaned siblings, with half a map, who are trying to beat an oppressive government to a secret, gold-filled canyon. • For the last two and a half years, Randy Weiner has been a cofounder and member of the design team for Urban Montessori Charter School in Oakland, Calif. Urban Montessori is the nation's first public (free) Montessori, arts integration, and design-thinking school, and the school opened its doors to over 200 families from around the Bay Area in August. Randy also serves as the chair of the school's board. • Christian Parker is serving as the chair of the Columbia Univ. graduate theater program. • John and Blakely Anderson '92 Atherton recently attended a Midd event at the home of John '90 and Colleen Quinn Amster '90 in San Francisco to hear about the Midd Solar Decathlon team. "It was a great event, and we were very impressed with the team!"

—Class Correspondents: Maria Diaz (latinawriting@gmail.com); Laura LeClair Grace (elsydash@gmail.com).

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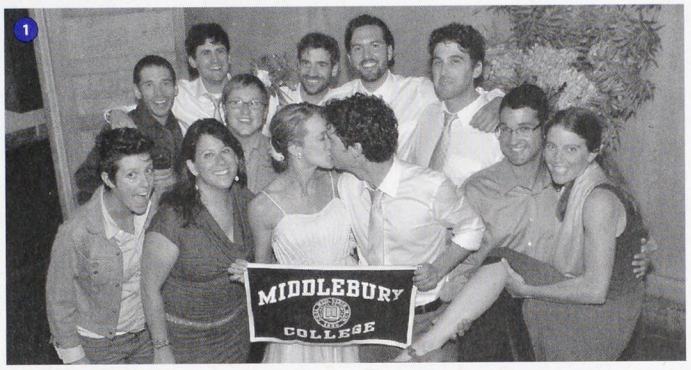
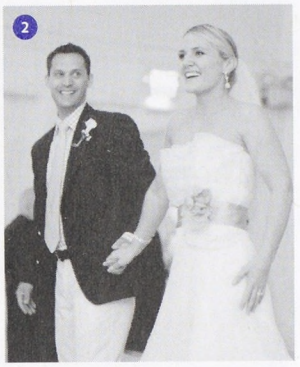
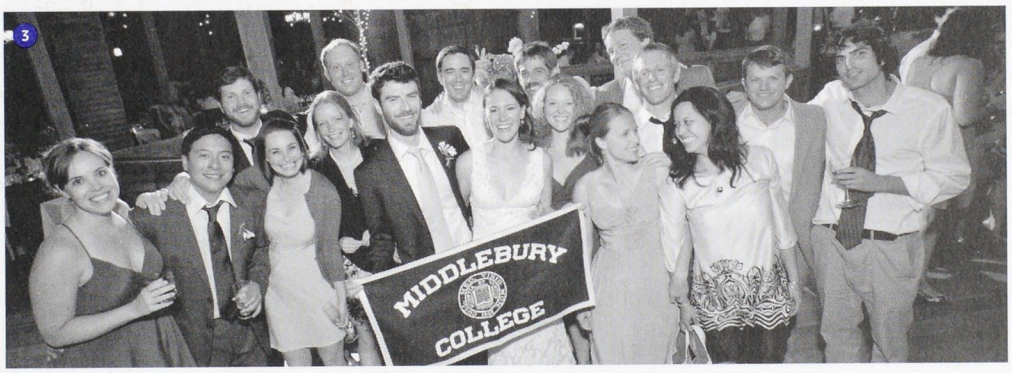
Gene Swift completed the Santa Clarita Marathon in early November—his second of the year (and of his life). Gene had limped his way across the finish line of the L.A. Marathon back in March with an IT band injury and made a promise to himself at the time that he'd fix the problem and improve upon the performance. New shoes, a new running style, and several hundred training miles later, Gene knocked 58 minutes off his time. He also climbed the stairs of the tallest building between Chicago and Auckland as part of the 2012 Ketchum-Downtown YMCA Stairclimb for Los Angeles, finishing several minutes faster than he did in his first try in 2011, but nowhere near as fast as fellow climber Tim VanOrden '92. Gene is still living in Los Angeles, working as the director of marketing and communications for Wells Fargo Capital Finance, and enjoying being a dad to his children, Zander and Emily. • *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, probably the most widely read industry publication in the global aerospace and defense industry, recently named Marc Szepan one of their "40 Under Forty: Rising Stars of Aerospace and Aviation." • Anne Brahic is still in Park City, Utah, discovering and meeting more Midd alums in town and down the street each year (Kate Walsh Geagan among them). Mom to Lucie (5) and wife to TV

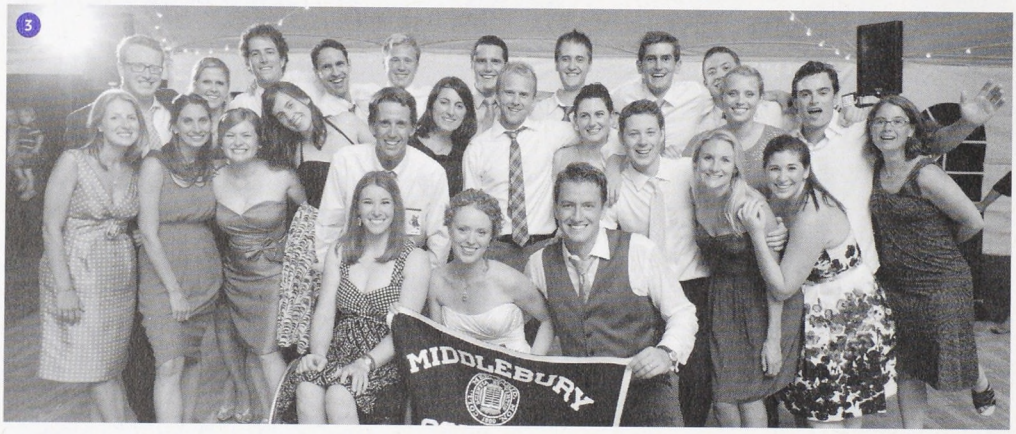




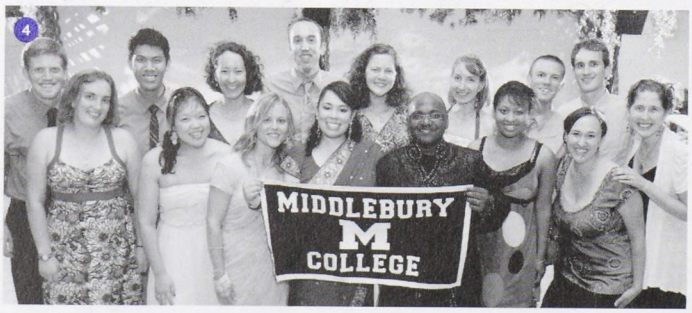


1 At the Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, Calif., Adam Taylor '01 married Lily Brook Abood on August 20, 2011. Friends enjoying the celebration included (all '01 unless noted) Sara Cogan, Marika Holmgren '91, the newlyweds, Rafael Morales, Molly Witters, (second row) Jeremy Schreiner '02, Andrew Dutterer, Lansing Davis, Ben Jervey, Carlos Lopez-Hollis, and Jeff Gangemi. Missing from photo: Kristen Sylva Capodilupo. 2 Catherine Pullins '00 and Scott Miles were married on October 2, 2010, in Nantucket, Mass. 3 Elizabeth Baer '04 and Daniel Eichner '04 were married on June 19, 2011, at the Round Barn Farm in Waitsfield, Vt. Celebrating with them were (all '04 unless noted) Sarah Dye, Dan Pruksarnukul, Claire Wolff, Louisa Conrad, the newlyweds, Kate Marder, Julia Proctor '06, Jean Hamilton, (second row) Adam Harr, Caleb Elder, Trevor Chisholm, Brenden Mulder-Rosi, Dan Wolf, Phil Aroneanu '06, Jake Carney, and Lucas Farrell '03.

4 Midd friends from the Class of 1991 met for a mini-reunion at the Wigwam Resort in Phoenix, Ariz., last November: Sarah Gandrud Robinson, Lucy Randolph Liddell, Sara Bremner Barry, Kate Kelley, Rebecca Haskell Andersons, Stephanie Blair Kirkwood, Eileen Walsh Hopper, Holly Beardwood Noordsy, and Heather Morris Wohl. 5 Pete Simonson '54 "sees" Dr. Jordan Sterrer '85 of Eyecare Medical Group in Portland, Maine, to have cataracts removed from both eyes. The results were highly successful. 6 Jed Smith and Michael Obel-Omia, Middlebury board members and 1988 classmates, caught up in California in February during Middlebury's board meeting in Monterey.



1 Jenna Mason-Plunkett '97 married Brian Strully on Whidbey Island, Wash., on May 14, 2011. Middlebury friends who helped them celebrate include (all '97 unless noted) Wendy Goyert, Hana Rubin, Sangwha Hong, the newlyweds, Brett Hanscom '92, Amy Diller Kelsey, and Amy Wlodarski. 2 In her home country of Sri Lanka, Tesalia de Saram '05 married David Belanich '05 on August 26, 2011. They were joined in celebration by Leslie Thompson '05, the newlyweds, Matthew Holbreich (Schools Abroad, Paris '03), and Shihani de Silva Soysa '03. 3 Devin Wardell '06 and Brian Cook '06 were married on September 4, 2011, at the John Peters Estate in Blue Hill, Maine. The bride and groom were surrounded by a raucous group of friends and family, including (all '06 unless noted) Kelly Brush '08, the newlyweds, (second row) Grace Kronenberg Coriell, Leigh Arsenault, Rachel Sommer, Rachel Dunlap, Zeke Davisson '08, Kat Cooley, Scott Coriell '07, Isabel Yordan '07, Christian Solberg '07, Gillian Thompson '07, Lisie Mehlman '07, (third row) Steve Atkinson, Sarah Little, Jake Whitcomb, Khristoph Becker, Dave Coriell (on tip-toes), Andrew Everett '07, Matt Depaolo, Jeff Boyink, Tim Foley, Molly Huff '08, Alec Tarberry '08, and Jen Douglas '91.



4 On June 25, 2011, Karina Arrue '07 and Nelson Philip were married at Garden Falls in Monroe Township, N.J. Middlebury friends in attendance were Laura Seidel '06, JeeYeon Park '08, maid of honor Elizabeth Chatelain '07, the newlyweds, Azaria Shaw '08, Jamie Zug Oyugi '08, Meg McFadden Smith '06, (second row) Ben Wiechman '07, Julio Chong '08, Elizabeth Zane '06, Eric Vos '05, April Peet Vos '06, Devon Parish '05, Andrew Haile '07, Tyler Smith. Missing from photo: Melissa Espert '09 and Nondumiso Qwabe '08. 5 Kim McPhearson and Tin Wegel, exchange student '96 were married on October 12, 2011, at the Office of the City Clerk in Manhattan, NYC.

lighting designer Jon Kusner (who won his second Emmy this year), Anne continues to stay busy production-designing sets for TV, including the sets for ABC's *Duets* and the CMT Music Awards, as well as her Emmy-nominated set for *CNN Heroes*, among others. Most recently, and in addition to her design work, Anne has taken on the position of director of exhibitions for the Kimball Art Center in Park City. • **Jay Robison** and wife Kristi, along with big brother Mikey, welcomed daughter Zoe Kristine on October 8. • **Heather Dorf Rawlings** reports she's still in Vail and happy that the real estate market is coming back. Raising one skiing-obsessed kid and one hockey-obsessed kid keeps Heather busy, but not too busy to ski with anyone who finds themself up that way, however! • **Christina Jaeger Tyson** caught up with **Ed Soh** and **Hylah Wells Patton** in Middlebury this past fall during a quick visit from London, where she lives with her three children and husband Robin. They're looking forward to spending lots of quality time in Vermont this summer—come visit! • **T Cooper** has published another book. Entitled *Real Man Adventures,* this book is a collage of letters, essays, and interviews as he takes the reader through his transition into identifying as male, marrying his wife, and becoming a stepfather.
—Class Correspondents: Mary Strife Cairns (mcairns@middlebury.edu); Gene Swift (geneswift@mac.com).

95

With our 20th reunion fast approaching (can you believe it!?), **JP** and **Emily** will soon be asking you to share your memories of the early 1990s at Midd for the class notes. So, dig through your memory banks and come up with some good stories. Then, look for them in future editions of the 1995 notes. • **James Wilson** had a reunion of his own recently: "Kristin Hanson '94 and I recently got together in Bar Harbor, Maine. My dad joined Kristin, her brother Kirk, and me for a lobster feed at the Trenton Lobster Pound. Since the Hansons hadn't ever had a traditional Maine lobster (steamed, served with drawn butter), my dad offered 'remedial lobstah lessons' to the both of them. We had a great time and got plenty messy! Maddie, Kristin's dog, waited patiently for scraps to fall her way, but left quite deceived." • Another reunion of sorts happened at the home of **Emily Aikenhead Hannon** in Sacramento, Calif., last spring. **Jennifer Willingham** was visiting from Hinesburg, Vt., and **Ellen Anderson Holt** (also living in Sacramento) stopped by for a visit! Emily and Ellen's kids enjoyed the duck pond at a nearby park while the old friends caught up! • **Ali Barber Sanders** and family relocated to Indiana in 2008. She is a doctoral candidate and teaching fellow at Ball State Univ., where she teaches child development and adolescent psychology. Her little ones keep her busy with "every sport that exists!" She would love to hear from other Middlebury alums in Indiana at aletta@alumni.middlebury.edu. • From the stage in New York, **David Barlow** writes, "I had a great time acting with Midd alums Alex Draper '88, Tara Giordano '02, Megan Byrne '96,

Jay Dunn '00, and more recent grads in Potomac Theater Project's *Serious Money,* directed by Middlebury theater professor Cheryl Faraone at Atlantic Stage 2 in Manhattan. The show got a bang-up review in the *New York Times*, so congrats to Cheryl and PTP! It's so amazing the quality of challenging work that my connection to Middlebury continues to afford me, now well into my career." • Also in New York, **Claudio Salas** is still at the law firm WilmerHale, where he was promoted to counsel last January. His boys are now eight (Dimitris) and six (twins Alejandro and Stefanos). "Between work and three boys," Claudio says, "life's full!" • And, for running/swimming/biking around New York, congratulations go to **Doug Tsao**! "On August 11, I competed in Ironman New York and finished in 9:59. I finished 75th overall, out of 2,200 racers, and 15th in the 35–39 age group. My running time of 3:11 for the 26.2 run was 10th fastest for the day, including the pro athletes. I'm still living in NYC with wife Jennifer and son Owen, who celebrated his fourth birthday the day after the race. Two weeks later, we headed up to New England, including a stop in Middlebury." • **Andrea Lathrop** sends good news: "I'm living and working in Cambridge, Mass. My latest hobby is long-form improv comedy. I perform with a group called Disco Basement and appeared with them in the Toronto Improv Festival on October 26." • **Wendy Ekman Lewis** writes, "I opened my own law firm where I provide indigent defense in civil matters, usually to parents in jeopardy of losing custody of their children, so I'm a court-appointed attorney—the kind you get if you can't afford a 'real' one. It's outstanding work and I love it. **Arnold** is now the director of student activities as well as a Spanish teacher at the Dawson School in Lafayette, Colo., and just completed his 10th year with the school. Piper (5) and Carter (4) are fabulous kids. We love skiing and would love to reconnect with Middlebury friends if they pass through Boulder. We just attended a reunion of sorts in Boulder organized by Midd's Rocky Mountain Chapter!" • **Tarek** and **Kate Buckley Rahman**, Walker (5), and Zakary (3) welcomed third son, Kyle William, last April 16. Kate and Tarek also celebrated their eighth wedding anniversary in 2012 by going to a bad, but nearby, restaurant for about 37 minutes. • **Carine Falkenberg Lauterbach** writes, "After moving from Oslo, Norway, six years ago, I have been living in Westport, Conn., with husband Michael '96 and our girls Sophia (9) and Nina (6). When the girls settled into school, I went back to work as a licensed clinical social worker at a school-based health center, doing individual and group therapy."

—Class Correspondents: Emily Aikenhead Hannon (hannon.emily@gmail.com); JP Watson (jpwatson@athensacademy.org).

96

We'd love to hear from classmates!

—Class Correspondents: Amanda Gordon Fletcher (argfletcher@yahoo.com); Megan Shattuck (meganshattuck@gmail.com).

97

The weekend of June 8–10 brought over 50 '97ers back from both near and far, many with their spouses and families, for our 15th reunion. After a Friday afternoon thunderstorm, the weather was gorgeous and campus was more beautiful than we remembered. Many classmates met at Up's on Friday evening for dinner and drinks, Saturday was filled with walks into town, activities for children, the reunion parade and ice cream social, and finally loads of fun under the tents behind the Art Center, dancing to the music of our own **Clint Bierman** and the Grift! A great time was had by all! It was so nice to catch up with classmates as well as faculty and staff from our days in school. We hope even more classmates will start making plans to return in June 2017 for our 20th! • **Helen Froelich Plummer** writes, "After six wonderful years in Beijing, my family has relocated to Oldwick, N.J. My kids, John (6) and Robby (2), are enjoying the fresh air and we are all adjusting to life in the U.S." • **Amy Kriescher Carey** writes, "Our daughter, Opal Rose Carey, was born on June 14 in Carpentras, France. She joins big brother Lyle (4). In August we moved back to the States after 10 years in France—making the move interesting by renting an RV and camping across the country from east to west for five weeks. We are slowly settling back into the Bay Area." • The movie *Sleepwalk With Me,* starring comedian Mike Birbiglia and produced by Ira Glass was cowritten by Mike's brother, **Joe Birbiglia**. • Welcome to **Jennifer Gelb Carbee**, who is joining **Catherine** as a correspondent. You can send them news at the e-mails below!

—Class Correspondents: Jennifer Gelb Carbee (jrgelb@yahoo.com); Catherine Mitchell Wieman (cnmitchell99@hotmail.com).

98

REUNION CLASS **Andrew Mahlstedt** received a PhD in English from the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2012. His dissertation examined the narratives of poverty in the developing world under the weight of recent globalization. Now to figure out a next step that is not academia, but is in San Francisco! • Dan '99 and **Mandy Levine Rosenfeld** and daughter Sydney spent nearly a year living in spectacular Sydney, Australia, in 2010–2011. Their second daughter, Lilah, was born on January 3, 2012, a few months after their return to Burlington, Vt. Mandy and Dan continue to love living among so many Midd Kids in the Burlington area. • **Tim McMillan** writes, "It's been a while since I sent in an update and thought the birth of my first son, Luke, was a good enough reason as any to send one in. Wife Emily and I welcomed Luke into the world on August 11 and other than a chronic case of cute he's doing great. I'm working at a software company called Ab Initio in Lexington, Mass., and living in Cambridge, just outside Davis Square. Emily and I got hitched on August 23, 2008, at the Harvard Club in Boston. Midd attendees included **Topher Lewis**, **Mark McCormack**, **Dan Ackerman**, and **Heather Corkadel Skinner**. Mark, Dan, and I have been making a yearly ski trip on Superbowl weekend the past few years and we actually met up with **Eric Lowe** last year when we rode Big Sky. Dr. Lowe says everyone is welcome to crash with him out in Bozeman if you are in town. • **Darren Bloch** was recently named the VP for public affairs at New York Law School, where he graduated cum laude in 2004. He spent the past 15 years in government and the private sector focused on communications, government relations, public affairs, and strategic planning. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and two daughters and also stays busy with the recent launch of a Web and mobile platform called Skedj, which was developed with a small group of friends to help

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discover, manage, and share activities and events. • **Matt Gunderson** writes, "In August my novel, *The Ajnir*, a science fiction-metaphysical book, was published by Turning Stone Press, an imprint of Red Wheel/Weiser. I'm currently working on promoting the book. I'm also doing freelance work at the *Boston Globe*."

—Class Correspondents: Katie Whittlesey Comstock (katie.comstock@am.jll.com); Nate Johnson (natejohn98@gmail.com).

99 **Sarah Cotton Rajski** is living in Seattle with husband Eric and daughters Hazel Mae (born March 2010) and Quinn Anne (born January 2012). • **Jennifer Pearsall Kobert** sent this news about sister **Sarah Pearsall**: "Sarah had a baby boy, Finn Warren Pearsall Lippert, in late March. She and husband Mike, son Josh, and stepson Tristan are still living it up in Tribeca (NYC). I was recently in town playing auntie for a week or so." • **Ted Adler** sent news that he's now a married man. "Abigail Woodhead and I were married July 28 in Woodstock, Vt., my bride's hometown. The Grift played at our wedding and Clint Bierman '97, Jeff Vallone '98, Pete Day '01, and **Pete Nilsson** rocked! Abigail and I met when she was in medical school in Burlington. I now split my time between Boston, where she is completing her residency at Mass General Hospital in pediatrics this July (and I am getting my GED in doctor talk), and Burlington, Vt., where my business is located. I'm still running Union Street Media, the now 30+ employee Web development and Internet marketing business that I started with Middkid.com in the fall of '99." • **Tom Muchiri Kabuga** and wife Surhi welcomed the arrival of daughter Anahí on August 10. Their daughter was born at the John Radcliffe Hospital, University of Oxford, where Surhi is pursuing her DPhil. Tom has been working in London's financial sector for the last three years since his MBA. He has recently joined ClimateCare, a leading emissions reduction project developer and carbon credit offset retailer. Tom will be using his experience with impact funds and development agencies to strengthen ClimateCare's fund management team. • Matt '98 and **Samantha Webb Kading** announce the arrival of their third son, Otto Wallace, born on May 31. Big brothers Atlas and Ansel welcomed him with enthusiasm and the energy level has only increased since then. Cross-coastal visits with **Sarah Waybright Barr**, **Heather Budd**, and **Justine Kwiatkowski** in Miami and the Bay Area helped make 2012 an excellent year! • **Cameron Brown Garriepy** writes, "On October 23, I released my first full-length novel under the Bannerwing Books imprint. *Buck's Landing*, a romance set in Hampton Beach, N.H., is available on Amazon.com in print and for Kindle. • **Peter Steinberg** has moved to Boston and is joining the faculty at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC). He is going to be the codirector of the BIDMC kidney stone center and codirector of the BIDMC minimally invasive urology fellowship, as well as an instructor at Harvard Medical School.

—Class Correspondents: Melissa Pruessing Miraski (mpruessing@yahoo.com); Peter Steinberg (captfun99@gmail.com).

00 **Michael Duff** wrote to say that he is doing well and has recently started a fellowship in critical care medicine at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in Manhattan. • **Jess Howe Thomson** won the 2012 M.F.K. Fisher Award for Excellence in Culinary Writing for her piece on saffron picking in Washington State. Her fourth cookbook, *Dishing Up Washington*, was released from Storey Publishing in November. Check out her blog at jessthomson.wordpress.com. • **Colleen Bramhall** and **Adam Popkin** were married on August 11 in Grand Isle, Vt. Many Midd friends from the Class of 2000 were in attendance as well as a handful of Midd Kids from other classes. Colleen was also delighted to say that the Midd fight song, "Gamaliel Painter's Cane" and the Alma Mater were all belted out and dutifully butchered. • **Amanda Perla** is happy to report that she recently moved to Santa Monica from San Francisco, started a new position as director of admissions at PS1 Pluralistic School, and is enjoying the warm Southern California weather. • **Philip Dean Walker** has published the following short stories: "Unicorn" in *Big Lucks 4* (summer 2011), "Caravan" in *Collective Fallout* (September 2012), "A Goddess Lying Breathless in Carnage" in *Obsession Lit Mag* (September 2012), and "At Danceteria" in *Jonathan* (December 2012). His personal essay "The Other Side of the Game" will be anthologized in *The Other Man: Twenty-Two Writers Uncover the Truth About Sex, Deception, Love and Betrayal* (ed. by Paul Alan Fahey and forthcoming in May). He's in his last year of an MFA at American Univ. in Washington, D.C. • **Allison Greenwood Bajracharya** was recently promoted to senior VP of statewide advocacy at the California Charter Schools Assoc. She reports she's "busy balancing work and motherhood (I've got two amazing kids) but enjoying the challenges and opportunity to affect education reform on multiple levels." • **Christa McDougall Vaughan** is happy to share that she and husband Christopher '98 welcomed daughter Charlotte Alden Vaughan last March 9. On Labor Day weekend, Charlotte hung out with **Sylvia Ryan Gappa**, **Beth Denoncourt**, Michelle Labbe Hunter '01, and hockey coach Bill Mandigo at the wedding of Sarah Carpenter '01. Happy times!

—Class Correspondents: David Babington (davidbabington@gmail.com); Lindsay Simpson (simpsonlindsay@yahoo.com).

01 **Josh Broder** and wife Eliza welcomed a baby boy named Clayton in late April. Josh reports that Clayton is still working on his sleeping skills but looking forward to being in the future Middlebury Class of 2030! • **Bob** and Jessica Silverman '00 **Bryan** recently moved to a new house in Twinsburg, Ohio, the town they've lived in for six years with their three children. • **Amanda Birns Roth** and her family took a vacation in Burlington, Vt., over the summer and stopped in Middlebury on the way up to have lunch at Noonie's. The family wishes they could get sandwiches like that on Long Island! Amanda has a daughter, Emma, who started kindergarten in the fall and son Jacob (3) with her husband Mark. • **Kristen Sylva Capodilupo**, husband Larry, and children Dylan, Maya, and Olivia moved to Needham, Mass., at the end of July, joining fellow classmates **Corey** and **Kate Griffiths Wilk**, and **Zach Bourque** and their families in the now-famous hometown of Olympic gold medalist Aly Raisman. • **Rachel Rackow** and husband Michael Quinn had a daughter, Ella Louise, on June 22. Just before Ella was born, Rachel finished her internal medicine residency, and she started a fellowship in palliative care in October. • **Mark** and **Jennie Mandeville Harrington** moved to Winchester, Mass., in December 2011 and are loving suburban life (and the driveway parking and yard space that it allows). They also welcomed their second daughter into the world. Zoe Ann Harrington was born on March 10, and her older sister Eva is smitten! • **Kelvin Roldán** married Kaitlin Halloran on August 11 in Hartford, Conn. In attendance were best man **Mathew Sorokin**, **Corey** and **Kate Wilk**, **Andrew Haley** and wife Stephanie, Lois and George Stark (parents of the late **Daniel Stark**), **Francisco** and **Erin Sussman Peschiera**, **Matthew Markowski**, **Bob Bryan**, and **Dauvin Peterson** and wife Vidisha. • **Peter Day** writes, "The musical life continues to be inspiring and productive—I'm still spending lots of time rocking out with Clint Bierman '97 and Jeff Vallone '98, and frequent collaborators Rich Price '99 and Greg Naughton '90 (from the Sweet Remains). The Grift has been playing some amazing shows as we keep filling the barrel with new tunes. Look for us this winter at Vermont ski areas and beyond! And in other big news I spent the summer working on a solo project, meaning it should be ready for listening by the time *Middlebury Magazine* finds your mailbox!" • **Rafael Morales** recently became Community Development Program Fellow at the San Francisco Foundation, after nearly nine years working in various capacities at the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, including as West Coast program officer for the past three-and-a-half years. • **Elizabeth Black** recently joined Cascadia Law Group, an environmental law firm in Seattle. Elizabeth spent the last four years in New York, practicing environmental law and general litigation with Carter Ledyard & Milburn. She's enjoying the cooler climate and looking forward to exploring the Pacific Northwest.

—Class Correspondents: Leslie Fox Arnould (lesliearnould@gmail.com); Michael Hartt (hartt@alumni.middlebury.edu).

02 **Elizabeth Beetem Brush** writes, "I married Colin Brush in Carmel, Calif., on July 31, 2010. I gave birth to a daughter, Natalie Elise Brush, on April 11, 2012. We took her to Europe in July 2012 visiting Spain, Portugal, Andorra, Morocco, and

Gibraltar." • Chris and **Lauren Cacciapaglia Sargent** welcomed a baby girl in October, Noelle Sargent. • **Andrew** and **Dana Gordon Dombrowski** welcomed a baby boy, Mylo Dombrowski, who was born right when Hurricane Sandy hit NYC. Luckily everyone is doing well. • **Yuri Lawrence** reports that he is in his second year as a small animal internal medicine resident at Oregon State Univ. College of Veterinary Medicine and a PhD student in the department of microbiology at Oregon State. • This past fall, **Alexis** and **Laura Burke Studley** welcomed another "studly Studley" to the world, baby girl Olive Rose.

—Class Correspondents: Anne Alfano (anne.alfano@gmail.com); Stephen Messinger (s.messing@gmail.com).

03

REUNION CLASS **Sophie Esser Calvi** is back on campus and thrilled to be managing the College's Organic Farm, where she did an internship while at Midd. After graduation she ventured out into the wider world of food and wine, where she has worked for wineries and various garden, farm, and food organizations. She holds a master's in food culture and communications from the Univ. of Gastronomic Sciences in Italy. Sophie and husband Benjamin '02, who is a winemaker, live on Lake Bomoseen with son Arthur, who keeps them busy and very, very happy!

—Class Correspondent: Meagan Dodge (mdodge@alumni.middlebury.edu).

04

We'd love to hear from classmates!

—Class Correspondents: Julia Herwood Breedon (julia.breedon@gmail.com); Athenia (Tina) Fischer-Rodney (princess1328@yahoo.com).

05

Nicole Grohoski and **Jon Stuart-Moore** met up with Elissa Denton '06 in Spokane, Wash., for an 850-mile bicycle tour through Idaho, the Canadian Rockies, and Glacier National Park, ending in Bozeman, Mont., this past summer. They crossed the Continental Divide three times, saw three bears, and ate three-plus meals per day. The crew ran into many Midd Kids along the way, including **Caitlyn Long** (also on a bike tour from the Tetons to Banff) and also Carrie Webster '06, Ben Brouwer '04, and Matt '02 and Heather Beal LaRocca '02. Nicole returned to Vermont, where she works in Burlington as a GIS specialist, volunteers in Winooski at the fire dept., and hangs out with the Midd expat crew, including her roommate **Natalie Guarin**, who is studying at UVM to be a nurse practitioner. Jon is back in Eagle Butte, S.D., on the Cheyenne River Reservation, where he and his fiancee, Megan Guiliano '07, work at the Cheyenne River Youth Project. Elissa headed back to Ashland, Ore., where she manages youth programs for Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon and has enrolled in a yoga-teacher training. • **Ted Lester** accepted a position at MITRE Corp., located in Bedford, Mass., as senior systems engineer. He recently was employed at Avidyne Corp. as a product manager. "I moved to MITRE, a nonprofit federally funded research and development center, in March in order to pursue new challenges in supporting our armed forces, using the skills I obtained at Midd and afterwards."

—Class Correspondents: Martha Dutton (martha.dutton@gmail.com); Dena Simmons (dena.simmons@gmail.com).

06

To paraphrase **Mitch St. Peter**, winter is generally a season cold and bereft of hope, but with the buoyant spirits of '06ers, it's always a long, warm, and lustrous season. Speaking of Mitch and the warmth, he made the move down to L.A. in September. Primarily the move was so he could see more of your intrepid class reporter **Jack Donaldson,** but also so that he could start at UCLA Business School. • **Jocelyn Florence** started business school at Booth, at the Univ. of Chicago, with the goal of opening her own performance venue. **Mike Emery** also started there this fall. • The graduate degrees keep coming with **Ali Shapiro** getting her MFA at Univ. of Michigan, **Christina Galvez** in her second year at RISD, and **Liz Somes** at Baylor in her second year of med school. • **Dan Saper,** usually known as an audiobook fanatic, espadrille aficionado, and horrific fantasy football player, can now also be known as a married man! Dan tied the knot with Jill Pervere in October, on the Pebble Beach coast. ("The greatest meeting of land and water in the world," says wedding guest **Ian Duffy.**) In attendance were numerous '06ers, including East Coasters **Michele Bergofsky**, **Nate Edmunds**, **Michael Kagan**, **Andreas Apostolatos**, **Ian Duffy**, and **Sean** and Virginia Harper '07 **Breen**. They were all lucky enough to spend a few extra days in California, thanks to Hurricane Sandy. For the West Coasters in attendance, including **Alex Casnocha** and **Mitch St. Peter**, they were able to celebrate not only the wedding, but also a Giants World Series victory. Dan and Jill are ringing in 2013 with a three-month trip to Thailand. • **Ryan Armstrong** and wife Alisha welcomed son Canon into the world. He's a beautiful boy already with aspirations of breaking his father's single-season batting title record at Middlebury. • In September, **Ben Bruno**, **Erica Goodman**, **Russ Johanson**, **Andrea LaRocca**, and **Kirsten Nagel** met up in Corning, N.Y., to run in the Wineglass Marathon and Half Marathon. It was an impressive showing for the Middlebury crew, with Ben, Erica, Russ (with a broken rib), and Kirsten all putting up marathon times that were fast enough to qualify them for the Boston Marathon. Andrea improved on her previous personal-best half-marathon time by seven minutes. Most importantly, the crew had a great weekend together. • **Alison Lacivita** completed her coursework at the University of Dublin Trinity College and was awarded a PhD in English. She continued her teaching assistant duties for the remainder of the academic year at Trinity and is looking forward to the next adventure in an academic career. • **Krissy Joseph** writes, "I just bought my very first house in Houston, Texas, where I now reside and work for Schlumberger Ltd., where my focus is on geophysical software. I go back to Trinidad about twice a year and met up with my sis, Annelise Joseph '05, for Carnival in Miami in October." • **Lucas Kavner** and **Hunter Stuart** live in NYC and work for the *Huffington Post*, writing and producing video content. • **Whitney Bogliogi** married Bryan Lodigiani '05 in a beautiful wedding in Chittenden, Vt. Scattered showers gave way to a beautiful double rainbow immediately prior to the outdoor ceremony. Numerous Midd Kids were in attendance including **Elizabeth Johnston**, **Heather Wright Vickery**, **Brittany Potz**, **Ryan Armstrong**, **Andrew Pavoni**, **Dom DiDomenico**, **Tyler Bak**, **Alex Casnocha**, **Emily Lisbon**, and **Clark Peterson**. • There were lots of matrimonial causes for celebration this summer and fall. Class correspondent **Jess Van Wagenen** married Liam O'Rielly (UVM '07) at Shelburne Farms, Vt., on June 23. The weekend of festivities reunited tons of Midd friends and she is so grateful to everyone who made the trip and helped make her dream of karaoke-ing post-wedding a reality. • Three couples contributed to fulfilling the Middlebury marriage prophecy: **Courtney Swanda** and **Mike Philbin** got married on June 23 at Round Barn Farm in Waitsfield, Vt. Dozens of Midd 2006 friends were in attendance. Between the two Midd weddings on June 23, we think half our class was in Vermont that day! • **Mike Ratpojanakul** and Caryn LoCastro '07 tied the knot on August 18 in Mamaroneck, N.Y., with an entourage of Midd Kids, perfect weather, and an after-party with a tub filled with Busch Lights. • **Josh Carson** and **Fran Filippelli** made it official on September 29 in Red Hook. Guests were treated to unbelievable food, amazing dancing from Brazilian relatives, and an encore performance of Gangnam Style. Multitudes of Midd friends were on hand to celebrate! • And finally, the moment all of you have been waiting for—the **Tyler Bak** update! Hailing from Northampton, Mass., and Deerfield Academy, this blue-eyed charmer matriculated to Middlebury in the fall of 2002. Like many Middlebury men before him, he loved the mountains of Vermont and prospered in and out of the classroom. After four blissful years he was ready to move on to a career. At this point, let's go right to a quote from Tyler: [*Editor's Note: due to space limitations, we regretfully were unable to include Tyler's quote in this issue. We apologize and will make every effort to get it in next time.*]

—Class Correspondents: Alex Casnocha (alexander.casnocha@gmail.com); Jack Donaldson (jack.c.donaldson@gmail.com); Jess Van Wagenen O'Rielly (jessorielly@gmail.com).

07

Aaron Ackerman has been working in Minnesota for the past couple of years as a program manager for an international economic and community development NGO in West Africa (OneVillage Partners). He moved to rural Sierra Leone this past July for a two-year field officer position to help expand his work to new villages. He also served as the Twin Cities Alumni Chapter leader the last two years and had a

great time catching up with his old Battell friend **Kristin Nielson** this summer in Minneapolis during her MBA internship at Target. • **Tom Boardman** has been working as an assistant video editor at Crew Cuts Film and Tape for almost five years now. In the past year he has worked on commercials for Siemens, Comcast, Maybelline, and American Express. He's also putting the finishing editorial touches on a short film that he hopes will make it into the Sundance Film Festival (fingers crossed!). He still lives in the financial district in NYC and spends time with **David Bubb**, **Joel Wolfram**, and **Matthew Hershenson**. In June Tom ran the Covered Bridges Half Marathon with **Bethany Holmes**, and **Brooke Smith**. • **Emily Adler** married Jay Boren '06 at Lake George on September 8, with lots of Midd alums in attendance. The couple left their San Francisco lives to kick off their marriage with an extended honeymoon: they bike-toured through Italy, Slovenia, and Croatia and then met up with siblings and other Middlebury friends for a 21-day trip down the Grand Canyon in November. • **Carlos Beato** finished his second master's from NYU in May 2011 (education administration) and recently started a position as assistant principal at the New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science, where he is in charge of the ninth grade cohort and social studies instructional team. He also took on the role of visiting instructor/coordinator for the Middlebury Urban Education J-Term Internship. • **Brooke Adams** reports there's not much new in her life, although we don't believe her. She has been in NYC since we graduated and for the past two years has been working as the director of communications of Eataly. She says it's been fun and cool to have helped open something that's somewhat of a New York fixture now. • **Jess Cox Coulter** is back in her hometown of Missoula, Mont., working as a behavior specialist for kids with severe emotional disorders in the local school system. After teaching elementary school for two years in Chicago, she completed a master's in applied ethics at Oregon State Univ. She was joined by friends from Midd and others last summer at her wedding to husband Frank. • **Will McDonough** and wife Nicole celebrated the birth of their second child, Jonah Reed McDonough, on May 26 in Norwalk, Conn. Jonah joins big sister Naomi in lamenting the loss of their favorite playmates, Bruce Hallett '10 and Sarah Bryan '10, who just moved to Colorado. • **Astri von Arbin Ahlander** and **Joseph Bergan** were married on August 17 in Stockholm, Sweden. The ceremony was held in the Stockholm Cathedral, followed by a reception at the House of Nobility. Many spirited Middlebury friends were in attendance. • That's it for now. If you want to get in touch with any of us, **Rebecca (Browngoehl)** left NYC with her husband, **Daniel Feinberg**, after five glorious years and has settled down in Philadelphia, where she is working in HR and recruiting at a boutique consulting firm. Bryant Park has sadly bid adieu to **Isabel Yordan**, who after five years at the New York Public Library, is now helping build support for the Nature Conservancy out of New Haven. And, if you're looking for **Nura**, we hope you brought your passport! She's living in Tunisia and is building democracy and pretty much saving the world. Until next time!

—Class Correspondents: Rebecca Browngoehl Feinberg (feinberg.rebecca@gmail.com); Nura Suleiman (nura.suleiman@gmail.com); Isabel Yordan (icyordan@gmail.com).

08

REUNION CLASS Greetings Class of '08! **Alex Schoen** and **Teddy Crecelius** were married in Vermont on August 11, after having been together since being across-the-hall neighbors in B2S their first semester at Midd. Their wedding was attended by other 2008 alums including **JeeYeon Park**, **Ptarmigan Abbott**, **Evan Ellenberger**, and **Ryan Tauriainen** (in spirit). • In May, **Laura Budzyna** finished her MPA in development practice at Columbia Univ. She's now working as an independent consultant in New York, conducting field research and analyzing data for microfinance and global health agencies and piloting a new curriculum initiative at Columbia. • After college, **Tristan Axelrod** and his now-wife **Sarah (Luehrman)** moved to an industrial city in northern Italy. Tristan wrote a book about it (*Stranieri: Life Among Italy's Tourists, Expats, and Immigrants*) that was published August 20 by Belfort and Bastion. He writes as Tristan Gans (his middle name) to separate his author persona from his legal career—Tristan is also a student at Boston College Law School. He recently accepted a two-year clerkship with Judge Erik Kimball at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of Florida, which will begin when he graduates in 2014. Sarah helped write and promote the book. • Alexandra Garcia '07 and **Morgane Richardson** returned from a year in Costa Rica, where Morgane graduated from the UN University for Peace with an MA in gender and peace building. They're living together in Brooklyn, N.Y., where Morgane is working as an adjunct professor at Hunter College, teaching a course on feminism new media and health and Alexandra is entering grad school at Pacific College to study traditional oriental medicine. They recently met up with **Louis Lobel** in New Hampshire before his departure for law school in Austin, Texas. • **Chris Rominger** is in Tunis, Tunisia, where he will be until spring, studying Arabic and doing archival research as part of his history PhD at the City University of New York Graduate Center. • **Emi Neithercut** started at the Univ. of Michigan Ross School of Business. • **Clayton Reed** was living in Lake Tahoe in 2011, working as a full-time ski coach at Sugar Bowl Academy. He moved back to Boston in the fall of 2011 and now is working at Conservation Services Group. The company manages a statewide residential energy-auditing program, and Clayton is out in the field managing energy auditors. He's also doing a master's program in global energy management at UC Denver. And he is the assistant ski coach at Babson College. Clayton went on a 10-day whitewater rafting and camping trip down the Salmon River in Idaho for the bachelor party of Andrew "Billy" Wagner '09. Clayton, **Jed Yeiser**, Tripp Burwell '09, Bart DiFiore '09, Cam MacKugler '09, Brian Swartz '10, and Christian Woodard '10 were all in attendance. • **Ethan Robert** is now an associate with Lincoln Property Company, a commercial real estate firm. He's still living in the same Beacon Hill apartment with Tilly (**Mike Gentile**) in Boston. Ethan sees **Dan Goulette** and **Adam Posner** a lot, and the three have suffered through some Red Sox games together. Adam is still working for the Harvard Management Co. Dan just started at the physician assistants school at Northeastern, after working at Children's Hospital for a couple years. Tilly works for Industrial Economics, an environmental consulting firm in Cambridge. • **Liza Reynolds** lives in Washington, D.C., where she works for the Center for Global Development (CGD), an international development policy think tank that aims to reduce global poverty and inequality. Her work focuses on European policy, and she helped to open a CGD office in London last year. Liza coleads the Middlebury alumni chapter in D.C. and has enjoyed staying connected to the College community. She traveled to Vail, Boston, Virginia, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard to visit **Yanik Bababekov**, **Harrison Bane**, **Peyton Coles**, **Brooke Farquhar**, **James Kerrigan**, **Liana Sideli**, **Adam Weisman**, and **Zmira Zilkha**. Liza applied to graduate school in the fall and plans to pursue a joint master of public health and business degree. • **Audrey Nelson** is happily coloring with crayons and teaching third grade at Greenwich Academy, while she finishes her master's in New York. She hopes to go abroad next year, but not before she spends more quality time with Midd Kids in NYC, Vermont, Boston, and the West Coast. • Feel free to send in updates at any time to **Michelle** or **Laura**.

—Class Correspondents: Michelle Cady (michelle.elizabeth.cady@gmail.com); Laura Lee (laurawhitneylee@gmail.com).

09

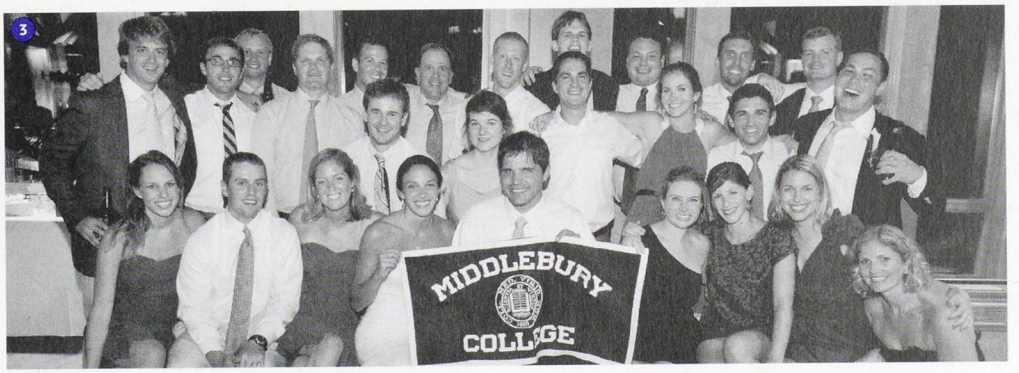
We'd love to hear what classmates are up to! Send us your news!

—Class Correspondents: Billie Borden (billie.borden@gmail.com); Eva Nixon (evanixon@gmail.com).

10

In traditional Middlebury fashion, the Class of 2010 is getting outside! Last summer, **Jenny Erwin** led a variety of outdoor trips and went on an epic bike tour of the South with her family along the Natchez Trace trail. She's now in Boulder, Colo., taking graduate classes in environmental engineering and enjoying all the super-fun things Boulder offers. • **Will James** has also been living in Colorado and is located in Denver. Right out of school, he worked for the Colorado Geological Survey but has switched to an oil and gas company. When not working, he has been doing a lot of skiing and mountain biking, as well as lots of hiking, camping, and some hunting (turkey, bear, elk). • Joining the ranks out West, **Emily Allison** is living in Bozeman, Mont., and is beginning her second year of coaching year-round for the local Nordic ski club, Bridger Ski Foundation. She

coaches high school racers, organizes training camps, and supports her athletes at races all over the western U.S. This past summer, she led a monthlong trip to Tanzania for Overland. Her group of high school charges volunteered at an orphanage and primary school, went on safari, and the entire group summited Mount Kilimanjaro! • **Lauren Fritz** is living in Anchorage, Alaska, and training full time as a Nordic skier. She hopes to make the 2014 Winter Olympics! • **Jamie Mittelman** works as a conservation market analyst of the World Wildlife Fund's Freedom to Roam initiative. This past year she published a book entitled *Butter Tea and Banana Soup; Food as Identity*, a collection of memoirs and personal stories from students of the Asian Univ. for Women, which uses food as a conduit for identity. • Several members of the class are hitting the books again! After working at the Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope National Medical Center, **Tats Fujii** is starting medical school at the Keck School of Medicine at USC. • After a brief stint in Boston, **Mark Kelly** has found his way back to Vermont. He has bounced between tech and healthcare jobs and is finishing his premed coursework while doing research with the UVM Department of Family Medicine. He spends his free time feeding his maple syrup addiction. • After earning an MS in geology from the Univ. of Montana, Missoula, working as an amateur huckleberry picker on the side, and living with Jared Bean '09, Spencer Paddock '09, and Brett Woelber '09, **Victor Guevara** is starting a PhD in geology at Virginia Tech. He hopes to devour a large quantity of pulled pork during his time in Blacksburg. • **Claire Luby** spent roughly six months working for the president's special commission on the BP oil spill and is going into her second year of a master's in plant breeding at the Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison. She lives with fellow '10 graduates **Eric Elderbrock**, **Glen Frieden**, **Cecilia Goldschmidt**, and **Emily Jones**. • **Canem Ozyildirim** quit her job in NYC as the regional representative of Greenpeace USA, and after spending a proper summer at home in Istanbul for the first time in six years, moved to London for a master's in international development at University College London. • **Nick Alexander** moved back to Australia after graduation and lives in Sydney, studying law and working part time in a boutique firm in the city's center. He spends most of his spare time at the beach, enjoying the relief from the harsh Middlebury winters, traveling around Oz, reconnecting with his country, and becoming fully Aussified! He meets up with Midd Kids Nikolas Riefkohl '13, Jeronimo Riefkohl '11, and **Juan Diego Farah** every year in the Gili Islands in Indonesia. • **Maggie Bale** finished her MPH at Emory Univ. and started her Peace Corps service in Botswana in September, where she is working on HIV/AIDS prevention through health education. • **Annie Sullivan** spent the summer between her first and second year of medical school in Costa Rica doing a medical Spanish program, working in a clinic, and traveling around Central America. She's now in her second



1 In Moorestown, N.J., on September 10, 2011, Meaghan McGrath '08 and Mark Egan '08 were married. Friends from the Class of 2008 helped celebrate: Steve Gordon, Jay Dolan, Kristin Fraser, Abby Fox-Willman, Robbie de Picciotto, Caitlin Taylor Reiche, the newlyweds, AnnMarie Wesolowski, Jesse Davidson, Lauren Van Wagenen, Lathan McCall, and Sahir Iqbal. 2 A large group of '84ers skied the beautiful mountains of Vail, Colo., for four days last March: (kneeling) Mark Ray, Adam Baker, Ken Rapuano, Anne Chapman, Bill Hathaway, Peter Tichansky, Patrick McCormick, (standing) Buck Dominick, Tom Knox, David Torres, Andrew Zehner, Larry Goldstein, B.J. Paik, Jason Bacon, and Mike Ballard (friend). 3 Lily Knopman '06 and Ari Beilin '06 married on September 4, 2011, at Spruce Camp Base Lodge in Stowe, Vt. Many Midd friends joined them in celebration: (all '06 unless noted) Brittany Potz, Eddie Allen, Emily Egan Allen, the newlyweds, Leah Wildenger, Ali Golden, Georgia Jolink, Laura McMahon, (second row) Jeff Oldenburg, Mark Loper, Mark Spadaccini, Tyler Furnari, McKenna Moreau, George Mayer '07, Virginia Harr, Andrew Jacobi '05, Brian Waldron, (third row) Kevin Bright, Nate Edmunds, Peter Robson '88, Cole Parlin, Alex Meditz '05, Justin Ingoglia '05, Matt Rales, and Alex Scott '07. Missing from photo: Evan Beilin '09, Christopher Humphrey, Kevin Bergesen '07, and Dyane Sunn Waldron '72.

4 On August 6, 2011, Christina Winters '99 married Howard Blaustein at the Bridgehampton Tennis and Surf Club. Friends who helped the couple celebrate included (all '99 unless noted) Stacy Graham O'Connell '98, Lyndley Mercer Mittler, Marna Whittington McDermott, (second row) Mike Melone, Morgan Porzio, Rite Moisio Bouchner, the newlyweds, Liza Shaw, Matthew O'Connell '00, Liza Hinman, Hannah Flynn, and Tim Ireland. 5 Friends from the Class of 1984 celebrated birthdays in Florence, Italy, and also attended Middlebury's 50th anniversary of La Scuola Italiana: Ann Gustafson Sorice, Brenda Grassey, and Lissie Rodriguez Chandler.

ClassActs

year at UConn and hopes to put her Spanish to use while volunteering in the student-run clinic in Hartford. • **Ema Zubovic** is in her first year of med school at Washington Univ. in St. Louis. • **Lindsay Winstead** left her job at a NYC architecture firm and this fall moved to Providence, R.I., where she began classes in an intensive program in the interior architecture department at RISD. • **Kelly Janis** returned to Midd this past summer to begin her studies at the Bread Loaf School of English. She's in her third year of teaching sixth grade English in San Antonio, Texas. • **Raina Crawford** is also teaching, having finished her master's in childhood and special education at Manhattanville College and a two-year internship at Greenwich Academy, where she also coached varsity field hockey. She recently became a head fourth grade teacher at Avenues: The World School, in NYC. • Send any updates to **Mike**, **Tim** , or **Hannah**. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

—Class Correspondents: Hannah Burnett (hannahcburnett@gmail.com); Tim Henderson (tim.k.henderson@gmail.com); Mike Waters (m.lewis.waters@gmail.com).

11 Wedding bells have started ringing for the Class of 2011! Congratulations to **Colin Taylor** and **Cher Griffith** for their wedding on July 2, and to **Megan Mishler** and Chris Meyers, who celebrated their wedding on July 21. We wish you all the best! • **Litsey Corona** has been living in Taichung, Taiwan, since September 2011, where she splits her time between learning Chinese and interning at South Pole Carbon Asset Management. • **David Peduto** is on his third trip for his company, Global Rescue, to Islamabad, Pakistan, where he's been helping set up the company's first overseas office. David writes, "It's the same company that evacuated the Middlebury students from Alexandria, Egypt, back in early 2011." Next, he'll be heading to Bangkok, Thailand, for three months to help with the new office there. • **Celine Lim** is working with the Amazon Conservation Assoc. in Cusco, Peru, as a Princeton in Latin America fellow. • **Alena Giesche** is moving to Bern, Switzerland, to start a master's in climate science—"Woohooo for the Alps!" • **Eric Bartolotti** will start a master's in a four-semester double-degree program at the Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal and the German-Jordanian Univ., where he will study specialized translation—Arabic/German/English. • **Lauren Sanchez** writes, "After an incredible year abroad in Fez, Morocco, and summer adventures with giant tortoises on the Galápagos Islands, I have moved to New Haven, Conn., to begin my graduate studies. I'm now a master's in environmental science candidate at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and extend a warm welcome to any Midd alums in the area!" • **Elise Cohen** recently moved to the D.C. area and enjoys teaching students with autism at the Ivymount School in Maryland. • After finishing a master's in Greek and/or Latin languages at Oxford Univ., **Margaret Clark** started a PhD in classics at the Univ. of Texas at Austin. • **Moria Robinson** was a biology field tech last summer, chasing butterflies in Nevada and reuniting with fellow '11er **Connor Wood**, who was studying coyotes in the same area. Moria started a PhD program at UC Davis in the fall. • **Cat Miller** loves Chicago, where she started the dance/movement therapy and counseling graduate program at Columbia College Chicago last summer. • **Anthony Kuchan** moved to the Upper West Side in Manhattan with **Chris Marshall**, won a NYC basketball league championship with **David Reed** in the spring, and was planning to take the CFA Level I exam in December. He was also able to have a mini-reunion with **Gary Cooper** in Prague last spring. He says, "The ties forged at Middlebury run deep, deep enough for a transatlantic visit!" • Also in New York, **Jessica Halper** is finishing a postbaccalaureate in premedicine and hopes to apply to medical school this spring. When not drowning in the wonderful world of organic chemistry, she works at Bellevue Hospital in the adolescent and child psychiatric unit, meeting with patients ages 4–17 and performing screens for trauma history, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. She says, "Their histories are shocking, disheartening, and often hard to stomach. Yet they are still young—a promising quality in the world of psychiatric medicine—and while old memories cannot be forgotten, new ones can be made." • **Tom Crocker** is working as a logistics coordinator for Overland and loving it. A summer of great trips enabled him to work with **Lauren Sanchez**, **Hannah Orcutt**, and **Evan Doyle**, as well as many other past and current Middlebury students! He'll be sticking with Overland for at least another year—after taking a monthlong vacation, including a two-week trip to Colombia with his brother. • **Harrison Brown** is working in D.C. as a strategic analyst at the Advisory Board Company. He enjoys living with a fellow Midd grad, James Pates '12. • **Shannon Engelman** writes, "I started an MPH program in environmental health at the Univ. of Minnesota in the fall and I'm also working for a group called Team Diarrhea at the Minnesota Dept. of Health, monitoring foodborne diseases in the state. Great name, huh?" • **Tommy Mayell** is a project manager with the Fullbridge Program, a start-up in Harvard Square. He's disappointed to report he still has not spotted Mark Zuckerberg. • **John Szmyd** writes, "Since January 2012, I've been working as a research manager for a hedge fund called Teton Capital Advisers in Jackson, Wyo. If any Midd skiers/snowboarders are visiting Jackson Hole this winter, please contact me (jszmyd@middlebury.edu) or call/text at 630.498.7261. Think snow! Cheers to all the fun days riding Sugarbush, Mad River, and of course, the Snow Bowl!" • We'd like to second those cheers—to all the fun days in general at Middlebury! Stay in touch with us at midd2011@gmail.com. Thanks for all the updates!

—Class Correspondents: Ashley Cheung (cheung.ash@gmail.com); Carly Lynch (cjlynch489@gmail.com).

12 Hello Class of 2012! It's hard to believe over six months have passed since our graduation. Please continue to send us updates about your social and professional news! • **Gavin Bauer** spent the summer working at a pizza shop and then hitchhiked/rode his bike and looked for work. • **Claire Bovet** has begun her first year of medical school at the Univ. of Colorado! • **Oksana Cherezova** is working as a business immigration analyst at Seyfarth Shaw in Boston. • **Sara Cohen** works as an admissions counselor at Middlebury College. • **Caroline Cordle** is a project assistant at King & Spalding, Atlanta, Ga. • **Chime Dolma** spent the summer teaching at the Taft School and now teaches in Asheville, N.C. • **Liya Gao** is working as an assistant at Paradigm Talent Agency in motion picture lit. • **Siau Rui Goh** is a subsidiary rights assistant at Penguin USA. • **Catherine Hayes** is working in a research lab at UVM and as an assistant coach in crew at Middlebury. • **Sparkle Joyner** is the dean of culture for Citizen Schools in NYC. • **Jieming Sun** is in a graduate program with Trafigura in Singapore. • **Lany Jenna Khattiya** is a co-owner of Happy Paws Pet Care and is working as a production assistant on various films and Web series in Seattle, Wash. • **Mike Ogutu** is a senior associate at State Street in Boston and also the executive director for Ungana Scholars Project. Check out www.facebook.com/UnganaScholarsProject. • **Haley MacKeen** teaches chemistry and coaches soccer and hockey at Cushing Academy in Ashburnham, Mass. • **Alex Margarite** is singing, touring, and doing a cappella production with the professional Boston-based a cappella group, Overboard. • **Jennifer Nelthropp** is a Lower School teaching intern at Greenwich Academy in Greenwich, Conn. • **Philip Palmer** is an elementary school teacher at Tulsa Lighthouse Charter School with Teach for America in Tulsa, Okla. • **Quan Pham** has received a Fulbright grant and is in Da Nang, Vietnam, teaching English at Bac Lieu Univ. • **Vincent Recca** is a regional field director for the NW Missouri Democratic Party in St. Joseph, Mo. • **Amethyst Tate** is a news desk reporter at the *International Business Times* in NYC. • **Hallie Woods** is a field hockey coach at Wells (Maine) Junior High School. • **Pui Shen Yoong** is a consultant with the UNDP International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth in Brazil. • **Santy Barrera** is a Zumba instructor part time in New Jersey, NYC, and Philadelphia as well as a NYC Civic Corps member. Also, he is planning to travel to South America! • **Alexander Clement** is working at Kent Denver School in Englewood in Denver, Colo. "I'm teaching computer science and also working with the IT/tech support department." • **Emily Núñez** writes, "After commissioning as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army last spring, I'm attending the U.S. Army Military Intelligence school in Ft. Huachuca, Ariz., after which I will be stationed at Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs, Colo."

—Class Correspondents: Darryl Johnson (dajohnso@middlebury.edu); Paige Keren (pkeren12@gmail.com).

39 **Roger S. Thompson**, 93, of Green Bay, Wis., on March 19, 2012. At Middlebury he was a Chi Psi, was on the track and football teams, and in the choir. With a master's in library science from Columbia Univ., he was the first professional librarian in the Yale math dept. Moving to Woodridge, Ill., he served as the physics and high energy physics librarian at Argonne National Laboratory and was the library director at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, retiring in 1987. Predeceased by wife Marilyn (Taylor), he is survived by daughter Cathy, son Steven, and two grandchildren.

40 **Elizabeth A. Bucher**, 93, of Katy, Texas, on January 6, 2012. A Phi Mu at Middlebury, she spent a year at the Katherine Gibbs School after graduation. She worked in NYC then moved to Cleveland where she spent 30 years in the manufacturing firm Warner & Swasey. She was a charter member of the National Secretaries Assoc. Survivors include nephews William, Douglas, and Patrick, and five grandnephews/nieces.

L. Elizabeth Dorchester, 93, of Brattleboro, Vt., on March 21, 2012. After leaving Middlebury, where she was a Tri-Delt, she began a career in teaching, joining the faculty at Northfield School for Girls as a math teacher. Adding French classes to her schedule, she earned a master's in 1969 from Middlebury's French School. For 30 summers she worked at Camp Kehonka in New Hampshire. At age 57 she began studying the cello and played in small ensembles.

Jean Sweeny Hancock, 93, formerly of Darien, Conn., on February 17, 2012. While at Middlebury she skied with the newly formed coed intercollegiate ski team and worked on the *Kaleidoscope*. After graduation she worked in NYC for an insurance company. Settling in Darien with her family, she was an active volunteer in her community, serving with the Girl Scouts and driving for the Red Cross and other organizations, supplying rides to appointments for residents. Predeceased by husband John, she is survived by daughter Cynthia, three grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Loring W. Pratt, 93, of Fairfield, Maine, on March 13, 2012. An Alpha Sigma Psi at Middlebury, he entered medical school at Johns Hopkins after graduation. After his residency, he served two years in the U.S. Air Force before being honorably discharged as a captain. He joined a private practice in Waterville, Maine, where he worked as an otolaryngologist until retiring in 1984. He was then invited back to Johns Hopkins as a visiting professor for 15 months and to the Mayo Clinic in Arizona for five months. During his career he was a member of numerous national medical societies, attaining fellowship in many of them. He also served as a consultant with many medical centers throughout Maine. He was a Mason since 1940, a member of the Fairfield Historical Society, a Master Gardener, and a photographer. A loyal Midd alum, he served for many years as a class correspondent. He is survived by wife Jeanette (Burque), sons George, Robert, Harold, and John, daughters Anne, Susan, Patricia, Kathy, and Ethel, 25 grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

41 **Willard Littlehale**, 92, of Fitchburg, Mass., on February 29, 2012. At Middlebury he was in Alpha Sigma Psi and sang in the choir. During WWII, he served with the Navy in the Pacific as a supply and disbursing officer with the rank of lieutenant senior grade. For 20 years he worked in retail merchandising for various stores, including seven years as store superintendent at Arnold Dept. Store in NYC. After earning a certificate of accounting at Bentley College, he was a credit manager and financial counselor at Emerson Hospital in Concord, Mass. He was a member of Stratton Theatre in Fitchburg and enjoyed acting in plays. He is survived by two nieces and a nephew.

42 **Harriet Tillinghast Fuller**, 92, of West Hartford, Conn., on March 28, 2012. After graduation she worked at the Southern New England Telephone Co. until her marriage. An active volunteer, she delivered Meals on Wheels, served in her church, and worked in a program for the mentally handicapped. Predeceased by husband Denison, she is survived by daughter Elizabeth Booth, son Peter, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

William D. Livingstone, 90, of San Diego, Calif., on May 11, 2010. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa, he earned a degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and a PhD from Yale Divinity School. For many years he was the minister of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of San Diego. In 1971 he earned a JD from Western State Univ. Middlebury bestowed an honorary Doctor of Divinity on him in 1956.

43 **Frederick H. Booth**, 90, of Kitty Hawk, N.C., on February 13, 2012. After a year at Middlebury, where he was in Chi Psi, he transferred to Springfield College, where he earned his BS and master's in physical education. During WWII he served in the Army Air Corps as a staff sergeant. He taught physical education at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., before joining the staff at Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J., where he taught PE for 34 years and coached basketball and football as well as umpiring high school and college baseball games. Survivors include wife Faith (Smith), daughter Barbara '69, sons Doug and Jim, four stepchildren, three grandchildren, and five stepgrandchildren.

Elizabeth Scherholz Pell, 90, of Knoxville, Tenn., on March 3, 2012. After graduating from Penn State, where she was an Alpha Xi Delta sorority member, she worked at American Sugar Refining Co. during WWII. She enjoyed travel with her husband and became very involved with Alzheimer's support groups after his diagnosis. Predeceased by husband Lawrence, she is survived by daughters Susan Evans and Derinda Stiene, son Thomas, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include sister Margaret Scherholz Delfausse '37. Surviving Middlebury relatives include nephew Peter Delfausse '65, niece Abigail Delfausse '72, and great-nephew Pierre Delfausse '93.

45 **Donald A. Perry**, 87, of Denton, Texas, on February 24, 2012. At Middlebury he was in Kappa Delta Rho. During WWII he served in the Army in the South Pacific. He worked at Chance Vought Aircraft in Dallas, Texas, as an engineer for seven years before joining Texas Instruments (TI). During a move to Massachusetts with TI, he also taught night school at Providence (R.I.) Junior College. He retired in 1989 as a senior member of the technical staff. Predeceased by wife Martha (McClellan), he is survived by sons Scott and Don, daughters Penny Dickerson and Cindy Obbink, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include brother Samuel '41. Surviving Middlebury relatives include nephew James Perry '60.

48 **Scott T. Pike**, 86, of Newburyport, Mass., on August 20, 2009. During WWII he served in the Navy. At Middlebury he was a member of Delta Upsilon. With a master's from the Univ. of Minnesota, he worked at Houghton Mifflin Publishing Co. as a textbook salesman for 24 years, retiring in 1978. He and his wife worked several years as caretakers and curators of the John Greenleaf Whittier Birthplace. Survivors include wife Betty (Brackett), daughters Ruth Allen, Meg Costello, and Amanda Pike, four grandchildren, and one great-grandson.

Barbara Roemer Ready, 85, of Southern Shores, N.C., on February 5, 2012. With a year at Berkeley Secretarial School, she worked in NYC for National City Bank and Domino Sugar before raising her children. She and her husband enjoyed traveling around the U.S. in retirement. Predeceased by husband William, she is survived by daughters Susan, Karen, and Judy, son David, 10 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Surviving Middlebury relatives include cousin Amy Atwood Kvaal '96.

Margaret Mettler Schnorf, 80, of Venice, Fla., on December 11, 2006. She graduated from Akron Univ. with a BS in secretarial science. A military wife, she lived all over the world and was named U.S. Army-Japan Military Wife of the Year in 1971. She and her husband raised four children, Richard, Robert, Charles, and Susanne.

49 **Seymour Pollock**, 84, of Homestead, Fla., on March 30, 2012. After teaching four years in Spain

The following is a list of deaths reported to us since the previous issue went to the printers. Full obituaries will appear in future issues of the magazine.

Melissa Dunham McCarty '39 . . . . . August 11, 2012
Marjorie Poor Doyle '40 . . . . . October 28, 2012
Virginia Brooks Hutton '41 . . . . . August 14, 2012
M. Suzanne Milholland MacArthur '41 . November 3, 2012
Norma Winberg Unsworth '41 . . . . . November 4, 2012
Lawrence A. Glazier '42 . . . . . October 24, 2012
Elizabeth Blanchard Robinson '42 . . . September 30, 2012
Jane Botsford Armstrong '43 . . . . . November 1, 2012
Ralph C. DeCastro '43 . . . . . August 29, 2012
Barbara Wait Sabin '44 . . . . . October 27, 2012
Esther Kennedy Graf '45 . . . . . May 31, 2011
Jean Lacey Patterson '45. . . . . August 22, 2012
Raymond E. Walch '45 . . . . . October 21, 2012
Cornelia Smith Carpenter '46 . . . . . August 24, 2012
Phyllis Hewson Evans '46. . . . . August 20, 2012
Willard C. Butcher '48 . . . . . August 25, 2012
Judith Little Frew '48 . . . . . August 26, 2012
Marya Steele Kellogg '48. . . . . September 18, 2012
Jack F. Kofoed '48 . . . . . June 14, 2012
Kaye Sturges Trimmer '48 . . . . . August 3, 2011
Howard K. Boone '49. . . . . August 5, 2012
Leonard R. Smith '50 . . . . . August 4, 2012
Frederic C. deLearie '51 . . . . . May 13, 2012
William A. McIlwain '51. . . . . September 20, 2012
Elizabeth Parker Burrows '52 . . . . . August 17, 2012
Marilyn Buist Scott '53 . . . . . September 8, 2012
Jane Coffin '54 . . . . . August 7, 2012
William H. Admirand '55 . . . . . October 5, 2012
Robert H. Studley '55. . . . . August 7, 2012
Lucile F. Withington '55 . . . . . March 23, 2012
James A. McCann '57 . . . . . October 9, 2012
Leonard B. Colt Jr. '58 . . . . . September 26, 2012
Harriette Moseley Purdy '59 . . . . . October 24, 2012
Phillip A. Caruso '60 . . . . . November 10, 2012
Samuel E. Allen '69 . . . . . September 30, 2012
Reginald Fitz '69 . . . . . October 17, 2012
Edwina Shivelhood-Kartez '73 . . . . . September 6, 2012

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

Stephen R. Lawrence, MA English '51 September 26, 2012
Ann Lyons Fry, MA English '67 . . . . . August 4, 2012
Jean B. Baker, MA English '68 . . . . . June 23, 2012
Penelope Homan Neale,
MA English '70 . . . . . September 25, 2012
Anthony P. Petruzzi, MA English '76 . . . . . June 12, 2012
William A. Kromer, MA English '86 . . . . October 2, 2012
Patricia C. Ellison, MA English '97. . . . . October 5, 2012
Estelle Peavey Hunt, MA French '38 . . . October 4, 2012
Frances A. Eastburn, MA French '46 . . . . August 17, 2012
Ellen Holman Goll, MA French '64 . . . . October 8, 2012
Patrick D. Moore, MA French '70 . . . . . August 9, 2012
Hans-Joachim G. Mollenhauer,
DML German '73 . . . . . October 2, 2012
Robert E.D. Hawkins,
MA Russian '87 . . . . . September 24, 2012
Alexander C. Hooker Jr.,
DML Spanish '54 . . . . . February 15, 2012
Judith Frees Loredo, MA Spanish '59. . February 23, 2012
R. Jerauld Hill Goodpasture,
MA Spanish '75 . . . . . July 3, 2012

and serving as an escort interpreter for the Dept. of State, he earned his master's in Spanish from Middlebury and joined the faculty of Washington College in Chestertown, Md. With a PhD from UMass Amherst, he taught at various universities before moving to Florida where he was the foreign language department chair at Miami Dade College until his retirement in 1995.

50 **Kenneth J. Simendinger**, 86, of North Brookfield, Mass., on February 16, 2012. During his career he was an elementary school teacher, principal, and an educational sales consultant with the Silver Burdett Co. He supported a variety of youth, health, and education programs. Predeceased by wife Priscilla, he is survived by son Kent, daughters Pamela and Gretchen, and seven grandchildren.

52 **David J. Larned**, 81, of Laurel, Mont., on September 21, 2011. While at Middlebury, he was in Delta Upsilon. He started Larned Tree Service in Ohio in the early 1950s and moved the business to Laurel in 1972. In 1950 he married Florence Havel and they had three children, David, John, and Andrea.

53 **James M. Havens**, 80, of Corning, N.Y., on March 9, 2012. With a master's from Florida State Univ. and a master's and PhD from London (England) Univ., he was a glacial climatologist. From 1965–1970 he was an assistant professor at the Univ. of Western Ontario in Canada and from 1970–1980 he was an associate professor at the Univ. of Rhode Island. Middlebury relatives include cousin William Osborne '67.

54 **Graham T. Rowley**, 79, of Salisbury, Md., on February 1, 2012. He earned a BA at Duke Univ., an MA from the Univ. of Illinois, and an MDiv from the Episcopal Divinity School. He also served in the Air Force, holding the rank of lieutenant. For 43 years he was an Episcopal priest, serving parishes in several states, including Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Survivors include son Daniel, daughter Elizabeth, and two grandchildren.

Gordon I. Ulmer, 79, of Old Lyme, Conn., on February 4, 2012. At Middlebury he was in Kappa Delta Rho and on the ski team. A graduate of the American Institute of Banking and the Harvard Univ. Graduate School of Business Administration Advanced Management Program, he joined the Connecticut Bank and Trust Co. in 1957, ultimately serving as chairman and CEO. He became president of the Bank of New England in 1988, retiring in 1990. He also served on the board of directors of Hartford Financial Services Group, Hartford Life, Rayonier, and the Old State House Assoc. He is survived by sons Gordon and Craig and three grandchildren, as well as former wife Sandra (McKeon).

55 **Robert G. Wilson III**, 79, of Marshfield, Mass., on February 3, 2012. A DKE at Middlebury, he played on the football team. With a law degree from Suffolk Univ. Law School, he began his private practice in Boston in 1961. Active in his community, he was a cofounder of Duxbury Youth Football, was a longtime Mason, serving as Master of the Lodge, and active in the Shriners, serving on the board of governors. Predeceased by wife Robin (Frey), he is survived by daughters Constance '80 and Sara, sons Robert '78 and John, and 10 grandchildren. Other surviving Middlebury relatives include sister Mary Wilson '65 and cousin Albert Scullin '59.

58 **Helge Kjekshus**, 75, of Osteras, Norway, on January 13, 2009. At Middlebury he was a member of Alpha Sigma Psi and skied on the varsity ski team. After earning a master's and PhD in political science at Syracuse Univ., he was appointed a lecturer in 1966 at the Univ. in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where he wrote many articles about Tanzanian politics and authored the book, *Ecology Control and Economic Development in East Africa*. Returning to Norway in 1975, he worked in the Norwegian Foreign Political Institute. He is survived by wife Nadia, children Helge and Lisen, and one granddaughter.

59 **Gayla Harper Buccino**, 74, of Spring, Texas, on March 23, 2012. At Middlebury she was a part of Theta Chi Omega and on the WRMC staff. For 10 years she worked in cancer research at Yale Medical School and the Institute of Cellular Biology at UConn. As her children were growing up she sold real estate, Avon products, and worked in the field of personnel consulting. She was also very involved in dog rescue with Pals for Pooches. She is survived by husband Ray, daughters Linda Rucker and Amy West, and two grandchildren.

Donald L. Taylor, 76, of West Chester, Pa., on March 27, 2012. A Delta Upsilon at Middlebury, he played on the football and lacrosse teams. He served in the Army after graduation then began working at AT&T, where he spent his career, retiring in 1997. He enjoyed tennis, squash, and golf and coaching his grandchildren's sports teams. He is survived by wife Janet (Brouse) '59, sons Peter, John, and Paul '86, and 10 grandchildren. Deceased Middlebury relatives include brother John Taylor '54.

J. Stephen Turner, 74, of Santa Cruz, Calif., on March 18, 2012. A Phi Kappa Tau at Middlebury, he was commissioned a lieutenant in the Army after graduation and learned Mandarin Chinese at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, Calif., before going to Korea. He resigned his commission in 1964 and earned a master's in intergroup relations at UPenn. After 10 years as a community organizer and antipoverty program executive, he became a full-time writer on labor and environmental issues and was a founding member of the National Writers'

Union. In 2010 his book *Amber Waves and Undertow* was published and in 2011 his book *Drylands, a Rural American Saga* came out. Survivors include wife Anne (Tweedy), son Nicholas, and several grandchildren.

61 **Richard L. Perley**, 73, of Laconia, N.H., on January 17, 2012. After graduating from Babson College with a degree in investments and management, he worked in and managed ski areas in Colorado and Pennsylvania for eight years. He and his wife then ran a Dairy Queen in Laconia for 15 years. He also owned Jan & Her Friends, a children's clothing store. Predeceased by wife Gale (Kaiser), he is survived by daughters Marcia Gagnon and Michelle Brown, son Craig, and four grandchildren.

62 **Nancy Gould Clark**, 71, of Windsor, Conn., on March 22, 2012. She had a successful career as a program analyst for the real estate investment systems with Cigna Corp., retiring in 1998. An active volunteer, she was a Girl Scout leader, led cultural programming in the elementary school, served in numerous church positions, and was president of the Windsor Historical Society, among others. She is survived by husband Randy '61, daughters Melissa Brennan, Heather Clark '89 and husband Bill DiAdamo '87, and Rebecca Bennett '92 and husband Steve '90, and seven grandchildren.

Michael S. Kulick, 71, of West Hartford, Conn., on March 11, 2012. At Middlebury he was a member of Zeta Psi and worked on the *Campus*. With a law degree from Columbia Univ. School of Law, he spent two years in the Adjutant General Corps. of the Army, stationed in Washington, D.C. Moving to West Hartford, he pursued a career in law and was a member of the Hartford County, Connecticut, and American Bar Associations. He was also a member of the Probus Club of Greater Hartford and Beth El Temple. Survivors include wife Alexandra Flowers, son David, daughter Rachel, and three grandchildren.

63 **Thomas M. Mettee**, 70, of Russell Township, Ohio, on February 16, 2012. At Middlebury he was a member of Sigma Epsilon, Blue Key Society, Wabanakee, and the football and lacrosse teams. He also served as sophomore class president. With a degree from the Univ. of Rochester School of Medicine, he served three years in the Navy in Hawaii before completing his residency at UNC in Chapel Hill. He joined the faculty at UNC family medicine and then at Case Western Reserve family medicine before going into private practice in Chesterland, Ohio. More recently he was instrumental in the development of Homecare Education and Resource Teams (HEARTS). Survivors include wife Jan, daughter Kim, sons Chris and Jeff, and five grandchildren. Surviving Middlebury relatives include brother Howard '61 and cousin John Mettee '66.

68 **Linda G. Johnson**, 65, of Melrose, Mass., on February 27, 2012. After receiving her degree from Defiance College, she worked as a paralegal at law firm White and Fudala in Lexington, Mass., for many years. She was a member of the Melrose Humane Society and loved nature and wildlife. Predeceased by her parents and brother David, she is survived by sister Sally and three nieces and nephews. Deceased Middlebury relatives include uncle Roland Johnson '38.

78 **Dirk J. Leach**, 56, of Bar Mills, Maine, on March 23, 2012. Inspired by Thoreau, he left corporate America and moved to Maine where he became a craftsman of hand-hewn walking sticks, rustic furniture, and Adirondack chairs. During a session of the Senate on September 23, 2010, Sen. Olympia Snowe (R-ME) spoke in recognition of Dirk Leach Rustic Arts, which became an entry in the Congressional Record. Survivors include wife Christine (Cioffi), his parents, and three sisters.

94 **Kathleen R. Hazard**, 39, of Milford, Mass., on February 21, 2012. After graduation she worked in St. Petersburg, Russia, before moving to Boston where she worked for Psyche Systems as a technical writer and quality assurance analyst. Predeceased by mother Linda (Bates), she is survived by father Paul, sister Molly, and three nieces and nephews.

FACULTY

Paul M. Cubeta, 87, of Washington, D.C., on July 14, 2012. After serving in the Navy during WWII, he earned his BA in English from Williams College in 1947. With a PhD in English language and literature from Yale Univ., he taught English at Middlebury from 1952–1989. He served as the assistant director of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference and in 1964 he became the director of the Bread Loaf School of English. During his 25 years as director, he expanded the program to include Lincoln College at Oxford Univ. He was best known for his inspired teaching of Shakespeare and 20th-century poetry, as well as for assembling a dedicated and talented faculty at Bread Loaf. After retiring from Middlebury in 1989, he continued teaching Shakespeare and contemporary poetry to adults at Johns Hopkins Univ. and American Univ. Predeceased by wife Beth (Brown), he is survived by sons Philip, David, and Jim, six grandchildren, and companion Franz Jaklitsch.

STAFF

Katherine Clark Jimmo, 62, of Ripton, Vt., on June 13, 2012. She began working in Dining Services at the College in 1992, starting at Freeman International Center before moving to Ross and also assisting with catering functions. She retired in 2009. She was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post in Middlebury and the American Legion Auxiliary Post in Bristol and enjoyed bowling. She also worked for many years at Clark Nursing Home. Survivors include companion Gene Warner, children Melissa Gearwar, Wendy Barrows, and William Jimmo, and six grandchildren.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

51 **Richard M. Keer**, 88, MA German, of Palm Coast, Fla., on December 31, 2011. During WWII he served in the U.S. Army in England and Germany. An educator and linguist, he had a 35-year career as a teacher, administrator, and student of foreign languages.

54 **John P. Aranguren**, 90, MA Spanish, of Berkeley, Calif., on January 13, 2012. During WWII he served in the Navy as an airplane mechanic. He taught Spanish at California High School in San Ramon for 10 years and Spanish and French at Rio Hondo College in Whittier for 20 years, retiring in 1985.

58 **Mary Nagle Yelda**, MA French, 85, of San Diego, Calif., on November 16, 2011.

62 **Russell O. Salmon II**, 75, MA Spanish, of Bloomington, Ind., on May 28, 2009. He was an associate professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Indiana Univ.

65 **Alfonso V. Hernandez**, 74, MA Spanish, of Visalia, Calif., on January 19, 2012. With a CPhil in Spanish language and literature from UCLA, he taught Spanish for 33 years at Santa Barbara City College and chaired the foreign languages dept. for many years. He retired as professor emeritus.

66 **Virginia Oliver Piccolin**, 82, MA Spanish, of Pittsburgh, Pa., on February 20, 2008. She was a high school language teacher for 20 years in the Mercer (Pa.) Area School District and in retirement volunteered at the Literacy Council of Mercer County.

67 **Siegfried B. Jucknies**, 78, MA German, of Uvalde, Texas, on January 9, 2012. Born in Königsberg, Germany, he taught for 37 years at Southwest Texas Junior College.

75 **Diann L. Gruber**, MA French, of Paris, France, in December 2011. She taught English and taught teachers how to teach English.

88 **Maria B. Rubio**, 49, MA Spanish, of Barre, Vt., on January 15, 2012. For 20 years she taught Spanish and French at Northfield (Vt.) High School. More recently she worked for Sudexo Food Service at Norwich Univ.

Classifieds

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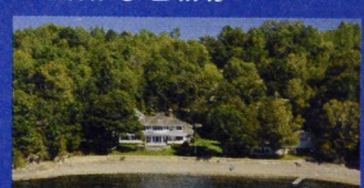

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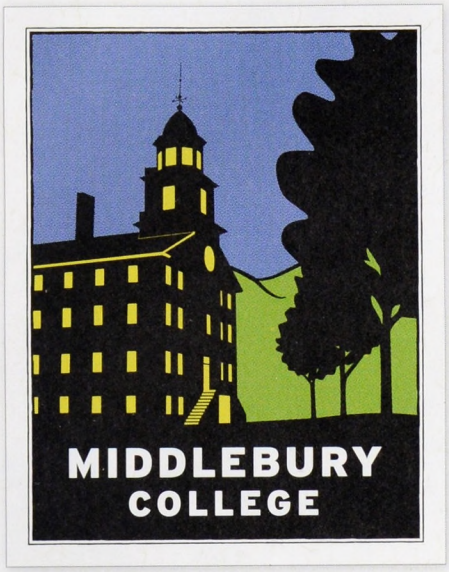

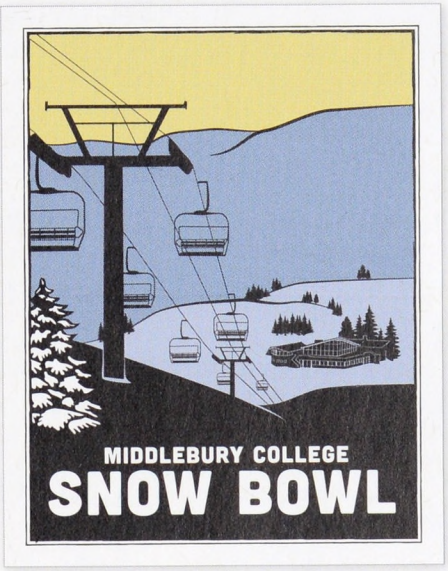

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By Anna Schonberg '95

Mo's Nobel

The Nobel Prize in Literature recently awarded to Chinese writer Mo Yan has created such an uproar that the merits of his writing seem to have been lost in the commotion. Taking center stage are cries about the political implications of honoring a member of the Communist Party and questions about the party politics of the writer himself. Then there are the financial questions: How will China best cash in on Mo Yan? The mayor of Mo Yan's hometown wants to create a "Mo Yan brand," and there is talk of turning his hometown Gaomi into a theme park.

Seven years ago I interviewed the future Nobel winner, and I have an entirely different take on the current debate. It was September 2005, and I was writing for a magazine based in Hong Kong. Mo Yan's brilliant epic *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* had just come out in English; I was certain that he was destined for greatness and must be featured. And while my magazine was more interested in articles on designer-clad, diamond-encrusted socialites than culture, I continued to push for the story, paying for my own flight to Beijing, intent on meeting the author of that wild ride of a novel.

In person, Mo Yan had the well-fed look of someone who has seen too much starvation and famine to diet for fashion. He laughed easily, but his smiles were rare. There were smiles all around, though, on the faces of the staff vying to serve him coffee in the Beijing hotel lobby. Who would have guessed, in a country as vastly populated as China, that an ordinary-looking writer would be as recognizable as a pop star or actor?

Our conversation about his novel turned immediately to politics. It became clear that Mo Yan's relationship with Communist Party policy is infinitely complex. He said that if he had written the same book 20 years ago he might have been shot, adding that he does not take political sides in his novel, but tries to "treat all as human. I want to show the real China and real life. It seems that [my book] is about a village, but it is actually about China's history. In this book I want to cover every critical issue of the last century." Speaking about his future works, his face darkened as he mentioned the unknown consequences he always fears they could provoke. "A writer without controversy is not a good one. A book without controversy is not a good one, either."

After the interview, I visited a sun-filled Tiananmen Square. When the changing of the guards began, I was singled out by an official and loudly berated, a club waved in my face. Uncomprehending, I did not move until a girl beside me pushed me down and whispered that he had said I was too tall and blocked the view of people behind me. Forced to the ground in the shadow of Mao, I started to understand the enormity of the task Mo Yan has set for himself, which in his words is "to cover every critical issue of the last century."

Now, however, many are denouncing Mo Yan's win. Dissident writer Yu Jie says it is a victory for the Communist Party, and the American educated artist Ai Weiwei paints Mo Yan to be a sellout. Even the 2009 Nobel literature laureate Herta Müller calls it a "catastrophe."

I disagree. To write such compelling fiction featuring current government corruption, inhumane policies, and the country's bloody history without being jailed, censored, or having to leave his native villagers and country in favor of citizenship abroad, speaks to the deep level of artistry in Mo Yan's novels and his commitment to his adoring Chinese public. Moreover, the clout of his Nobel now permits him to vocalize opinions that have hitherto only been possible through the veil of his writing. This makes his pen name, translated as "don't speak," even more of an irony.

But, be assured that none of this current debate can really be affecting Mo Yan all that much, given his stance that controversy is the mark of good writing. By his own standards, he has proved himself a tour de force. I just worry where he will write his next novel once Gaomi is turned into a theme park. M

Anna Schonberg '95 has a master's in East Asian studies from Stanford and currently lives in Los Angeles.

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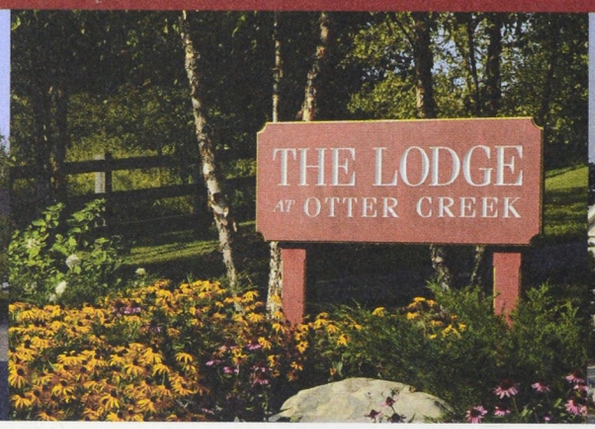

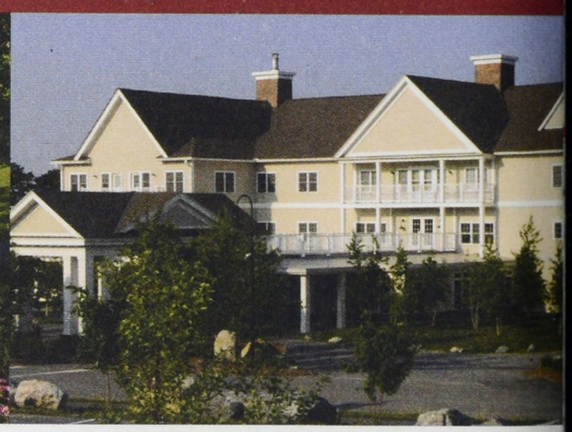

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